XCOR UPDATE

Bankruptcy court now recognizes the MDC as a secured creditor.

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COWBOYS PREVIEW

The Dallas Cowboys take on the Oakland Raiders at 7 p.m. today.

SPORTS | 1C

EYE ON DEVELOPMENT

Boardings at Midland International Air & Space Port reach record levels.

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WASTE DISPOSAL

Rising drilling activity accelerates need for waste disposal.

OIL REPORT | 1F

MIDLAND REPORTER-TELEGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017 mrt★com *320,000 readers in print and online*

Central Midland paves way for bond victory

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

Central Midland voters paved the way for road bond election victory.

Once an area where elections go to die, an older, more established area of the city saw 61 percent of its residents support the $100 million road bond measure during last month's election.

■ ANALYSIS

And in central Midland, voters who live in what is referred to as "Old Midland" — which encompasses Racquet Club, Wadley Barron Park and San Jacinto Junior High — were among the most supportive of them all.

A Reporter-Telegram analysis shows that just about any way the results were interpreted, the road bond cruised to victory.

City of Midland Proposition A won with 5,732 people — or 57.3 percent of the voters — approving the measure to spend more than $74 million on road construction. More than 59 percent of voters approved proposition B, which called for nearly $26 million to be spent on water and sewer improvements. This analysis focuses on Proposition A because it passed by a lower percentage.

■ The nine precincts with the greatest percentage of voters participating approved the road bond at a 61 percent rate. Those precincts were 204, 205, 206, 207, 402-A, 403, 404, 408 and 411. More than

Please see **BOND**/2A

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland Downtown Farmers Market hosted Winter Market on Saturday at the Museum of the Southwest. View more photos from the market on Page 4A.

UT chancellor to leave post in May

■ McRaven says he's resigning because of 'health issues'

By Matthew Watkins
Texas Tribune

Bill McRaven, the nationally famous and lately embattled chancellor of the University of Texas System, is stepping down in May.

McRaven

He announced the decision Friday afternoon during a meeting over the phone with the UT System's Board of Regents. It comes after months of pressure from board members and state lawmakers. But McRaven cited health reasons for his pending departure.

"There is going to be a lot of speculation as to why I am stepping down, but the fact is that this is a very personal decision for me," McRaven told the regents, according to a video of the meeting.

"As many of you know, over the past several months, I have been dealing with some health issues. They are not serious — let me say that again, they are not serious — but they have caused me to rethink my future."

McRaven, 62, came to the UT System from the Navy, where he commanded special forces and was the architect of the SEAL raid that killed Osama bin Laden. He has previously disclosed that he suffers from chronic lymphocytic leukemia but has stressed that it isn't life-threatening. At the system, he oversaw 14 universities and health institutions across the state.

In a 2015 commencement address at the UT Southwestern Medical Center, he said a doctor gave his wife an optimistic prognosis in 2010 soon after he was

Please see **McRAVEN**/2A

■ COMMENTARY

Craddick is gearing up for 26th campaign

■ Former speaker of the House to face 24-year-old Democratic opponent

By Stewart Doreen
sdoreen@mrt.com

For the 26th time, Tom Craddick's name will be on a general election ballot as the Republican nominee for state representative.

That Craddick is running to represent Midland County — among others — in the state House of Representatives is something most people who follow politics in Midland take for granted. For the past 50 years, people in Midland have come to expect the sun will rise in the east, oil is destined to come out of the ground, and every two years Craddick will run for state representative, and he will win.

With another filing period in the rear-view mirror, there was no change in the natural order.

But there certainly is something rather coincidental about Craddick's 26th run. The day after the filing period ended, it was learned that a 24-year-old Midlander with politics running through his veins is seeking to run for state representative for the first time. When longtime Midlanders read this, they probably noted that this person will run with the local establishment lined up for his opponent and will test what has become common practice for years — if not decades — and that his party is not the favorite around the state.

Yes, Tom Craddick has been there and done that.

For many, it may seem difficult to think of Craddick as the young guy trying to get his name out there by any means necessary. But that was once the case. Before he was the longest-serving member of the state Legislature, Craddick was a 24-year-old Texas Tech graduate trying to convince a local Republican Party board

Please see **CRADDICK**/2A

Visit us on social media

Ken Herman
Why Blake Farenthold should step down now
Read the column on Page 1B.

The big number

1 quarter
of polled Americans say abortion should be legal in all cases. Page 7A

Word of the Day: garrulous
Do you know what it means? Find out the definition on Page 3A.

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Daily $2, Sunday $3

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CRADDICK

From 1A

to support him heading into the 1968 primary.

And decades before he was the first Republican speaker in Texas since Reconstruction, he was a candidate that supporters wouldn't let be photographed alone for the newspaper or for campaign brochures because his supporters feared Craddick looked too young. Kind of humble roots for the man who it could be argued would become the most powerful person in state government.

Craddick had his eye on the state representative seat before the 1968 election. At age 22, he envisioned a run, but as it turned out, Republican Frank Cahoon — who once was the lone Republican in the House and therefore could "caucus" in a phone booth — wasn't done serving county residents. Two years later, that changed.

Still, a red carpet wasn't rolled out for the Midland High graduate. Craddick had a primary opponent — Joe Davis, Craddick's economics teacher at MHS. Davis posed a problem for Craddick because in those days, many Republicans in Midland County voted in the Democratic primary, which meant if Davis could line up enough teachers it might have cut short Craddick's first venture into state politics. That didn't happen. Craddick defeated Davis and then defeated Ray Howard, the owner of a printing company, in the general election.

"A lot of the business establishment supported the Democrat but I worked the base, Craddick said last week in a conversation with the Reporter-Telegram. "I knew who the Republicans were in town. I saw them one by one. I won handily."

Craddick walked streets and talked to Midland County residents who voted in previous elections. In the case of his race against his former teacher, he got teachers and principals to write letters of support for him to keep a wave of educators at bay.

He found new ways to get his name out, including the 4-by-8 foot political sign.

"Wahoo (McDaniel) and Jim Meyers gave me the racks (for the signs)" Craddick said. "Wahoo welded them for me."

One of those signs found prime real estate when Jim Hooker, the owner of Gibsons — a store on Cuthbert Avenue between Midkiff Road and Andrews Highway — agreed to let Craddick put his political sign under the store's sign.

"Gibsons was the hot deal then. I told (the owner) I wanted to attach it to where his sign lights up all night, every night," Craddick said. "He said, 'I am all for it.' ... He ended being in my wedding and naming Christi (Craddick's daughter)."

Painting "Craddick for state representative" on the sides of four downtown buildings might have been the most innovative politicking. It caused controversy, and the Midland City Council later passed an ordinance that prevented a future candidate from doing it. But for one political season, Craddick's name was there in blue and yellow.

His ads broke new ground. Endorsement notices "blew the top" out of what had been published in the newspaper before. When faced with a re-election campaign in 1970, the endorsement ad covered two entire pages of the paper.

"It was enormous," he said.

Doing what it takes also meant big changes. He lost 60 pounds preparing for his first run. Craddick said he weighed 215 at one time.

"Bill (Heck) told the local Republican board, 'If we don't support (Craddick) and let him run, he will run as a Democrat and beat us.'" As it turned out, Craddick the Democrat was never going to happen, and half a century later, Craddick is preparing for campaign No. 26. He will face Spencer Bounds, the 24-year-old from Midland. He doesn't know much about Bounds, but when campaigning, that apparently won't matter too much. Craddick will run on his record of getting things done for Midland. He believes his experience is a positive, and has helped make projects a reality, including millions of dollars of funding for the University of Texas of the Permian Basin's Engineering School on the school's Midland campus.

He has money to help in the campaign. The Texas Ethics Commission reports Craddick has $192,582 in cash on hand. During his last competitive race for state representative, Craddick spent north of $550,600. At the time, the then-speaker of the House had a war chest measured in the millions of dollars.

Craddick expects to continue seeking funds for UTPB, should he be re-elected. He also will push for more transportation dollars for the district.

"We furnish all this money (for the state) and our roads are getting torn up," Craddick said. "Getting more dollars for transportation has to be done. ... Oil and gas is an economic engine in the state. To me, we need to get more dollars back for that."

He also will push for more state funding for the Petroleum Museum, the physician assistants' program for Texas Tech Health Science Center at Midland College and other monies for health care in Midland.

"I will do what I do every day. I will be out there and give my opinions on things," Craddick said. "People will have a choice. We will compete with him and see where we are in the race."

On top is where most Midlanders are used to seeing Craddick's name. It's been that way for 50 years, and at age 74, he doesn't see why that needs to change.

Candidates for local office

The following are the candidates for local office as sent to the Reporter-Telegram by the respective county chairs.

Republican Party filings

Midland County judge
- James Beauchamp
- Stephen Robertson
- Terry Johnson

County Commissioner Precinct 2
Robert R. "Robin" Donnelly

County Commissioner Precinct 4
- Randy Prude
- Carla Repman

County treasurer
Mitzi Baker

County clerk
Alison Haley

District clerk
Ross Bush

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1
Terry M. Luck

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2
David M. Cobos

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4
John Wesley Barton

District Judge, 441st District Court
- Sean Guerrero
- Jeff Robnett
- Wayne Frost
- Isaiah Jackson

District Judge, 238th District Court
- Elizabeth Byer Leonard
- Chris DeAnda

District Judge, 385th District Court
Robin Malone Darr

Judge 318th Family District Court
David W. Lindemood

Judge, Midland County Court at Law
Kyle Pooler

Judge, Midland County Court at Law #2
Marvin L. Moore

Midland County Republican Party chair
Sheri B. Merkel

Democratic Party filings

County judge
Steven Schafersman

District judge, 441st District Court
Sara Ruth Spector

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1
Hazel Holmes Hudson

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3
Billy Johnson Jr.

Midland County Democratic Party chair
Margaret Hiett Williams
Kerry Menzo

BOND

From 1A

than 20 percent of total registered voters participated.

- The seven precincts with the largest total number of voters supported the road bond by 61 percent.
- Sixty-one percent of Central Midland voters participated.
- From the precincts that make up part of Old Midland (mentioned above), 69.2 percent of the voters from those precincts (205, 207 and 212) voted in favor.
- Voters in north Midland (precincts 411, 408, 409 and 204) also supported the proposition. Results show 58 percent of the voters in that area (north of Loop 250 from Big Spring Street to Holiday Hill Road) voted in favor.
- Of voters in the Grasslands area — precinct 110 — 55.6 percent signed off on the road bond.
- The precinct most supportive of the road bond was 205, an area that includes San Jacinto Junior High and is bordered on the west by Garfield Street, arguably one of the worst arteries in Midland and a road that will be reconstructed during the five-year bond initiative. Precinct 205 also had the largest percentage of its total voters participate.

Percentage of voters by council district

District	For	Against	Total	Winning %	% of Vote Total
1	2050	1513	3563	57.54	35.65
2	353	318	671	52.61	06.71
3	2050	1302	3352	61.16	33.54
4	1279	1130	2409	53.09	24.10

Source: J.Ross Lacy

All four representative districts supported the bond, according to Councilman J.Ross Lacy, one of the key members of the road bond campaign. Voters in Sharla Hotchkiss' district supported the road bond at a 61.16 rate. Most of Hotchkiss' representative area is central Midland. District 1, represented by Jeff Sparks, had the second highest percentage (57.54). District 4 (Lacy's district) and District 3 (John B. Love III's) supported the bond by 53.09 percent and 52.61 percent, respectively.

Two of the newer areas of Midland — the area west of the Scharbauer Sports Complex and northeast of the intersection of Loop 250 and Big Spring Street — have mostly new development and less enthusiastic residents when it came to road bond politics. Less than 10 percent of the total voters from those two areas — precincts 101 and 211, respectively — participated, and those who did vote supported the bond at a 54.4 percent rate (less than the 57 percent winning margin).

Voters from seven precincts will be on the record as thinking the road bond was a bad idea. Four of those precincts were in south and east Midland (104, 106, 303 and 309). Other precincts voting against the bond were 103 (west border of central Midland), 407 (north of Wadley Avenue and west of Midland Drive) and 410 (far northwest Midland).

Percentage of voters by precinct

PRECINCT #	Registered Voters	Total Voters	% of Voters	CITY OF MIDLAND PROPOSITION A FOR	CITY OF MIDLAND PROPOSITION A AGAINST	CITY OF MIDLAND PROPOSITION B FOR	CITY OF MIDLAND PROPOSITION B AGAINST
CUMMULATIVE	64349	10036	15.6%	5732	4263	5955	4027
PCT 102	2956	242	8.2%	122	120	129	112
PCT 103	2593	364	14.0%	179	185	192	172
PCT 104	967	57	5.9%	20	37	24	32
PCT 105	1790	172	9.6%	99	71	104	67
PCT 106	3496	370	10.6%	161	208	168	202
PCT 107	2852	505	17.7%	323	177	330	170
PCT 109	798	57	7.1%	32	24	29	26
PCT 110	2754	590	21.4%	327	261	336	252
PCT 204	2622	614	23.4%	388	223	396	212
PCT 205	957	293	30.6%	215	78	218	75
PCT 206	1753	410	23.4%	251	157	254	154
PCT 207	2713	672	24.8%	461	209	465	206
PCT 208	852	122	14.3%	61	59	64	56
PCT 210	1556	238	15.3%	138	98	143	94
PCT 211	1991	250	12.6%	146	104	148	101
PCT 212	1585	275	17.4%	181	94	190	85
PCT 303	367	11	3.0%	5	6	5	6
PCT 304	1613	53	3.3%	23	29	23	29
PCT 305	1232	62	5.0%	34	27	36	25
PCT 306	2282	111	4.9%	61	48	68	40
PCT 307	1088	183	16.8%	99	84	105	78
PCT 307A	244	42	17.2%	26	16	25	17
PCT 308	3785	274	7.2%	155	117	167	104
PCT 309	375	17	4.5%	5	12	5	12
PCT 310	444	36	8.1%	18	18	18	18
PCT 402	274	48	17.5%	31	17	29	18
PCT 402A	772	172	22.3%	105	66	111	61
PCT 403	3183	670	21.0%	385	282	407	261
PCT 404	2478	565	22.8%	321	243	335	227
PCT 405	2541	478	18.8%	235	240	247	229
PCT 407	3010	306	10.2%	150	155	166	139
PCT 408	1898	421	22.2%	225	195	237	179
PCT 409	1884	318	16.9%	166	151	166	151
PCT 410	1074	176	16.4%	68	108	77	99
PCT 411	3570	862	24.1%	516	344	538	318

Source: Midland County Elections Office

McRAVEN

From 1A

diagnosed: "Something else will kill him long before this does."

Lately, McRaven has faced questions over the scope and spending at the UT System. He enraged lawmakers in 2015 when he announced the $215 million purchase of land in the middle of Houston for a collaborative system campus. And he has clashed with the leadership of the flagship University of Texas at Austin over whether the system should spend $4.5 million on a bid to manage the Los Alamos National Laboratory. McRaven has championed the idea; UT-Austin leaders are opposed.

Amid that strife, it had already become clear that McRaven's contract wouldn't be renewed when it was set to expire next month.

Instead, he was expected to continue on at an at-will basis.

Still, regents and UT leaders applauded his service after the resignation announcement Friday.

"Your legacy for me, chancellor, will be to think big and bold as we define our strategy to advance each of our 14 institutions to their highest potential," said board Chairman Sara Martinez Tucker.

Regent Steven Hicks, one of McRaven's recent critics, said, "He did great service to UT, as he has done all of his career."

And Greg Fenves, UT-Austin's president, called McRaven "a great leader" and said, "I have been honored to work with him."

When the UT System hired McRaven in 2014, it was considered a coup. Regents gave him a three-year contract worth $1.2 million per year, plus housing and performance incentives. And about a year into his term, he announced a grand vision for the system that included nine "Quantum Leaps" that he said would make UT the envy of university systems across the world. Soon, regents had allocated $60 million to help accomplish those goals.

The Houston land purchase was the highest-profile idea — and it proved to be a boondoggle from the start. State lawmakers were furious that they weren't told of the plan ahead of time. And University of Houston leaders fought the plan because they viewed it as an encroachment. The project was axed early this year.

McRaven also felt heat from members of his own board, particularly regents appointed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott after McRaven had already been hired. They questioned whether the UT System offices had grown too big and spent too much money.

This year, regents approved a policy change that sent a slightly larger share of the system's revenue from a massive oil-funded endowment directly to UT-Austin, instead of allowing it to be spent at the system offices that McRaven oversees.

And last month, the UT regents formed a task force to review more closely what the UT System office's mission should be. The task force will be chaired by Regent Kevin Eltife, a former state senator who has been one of the loudest voices questioning the growth of the system. That group is expected to report back in July or August — likely after McRaven has left.

As the year wound down and it became clear that McRaven wouldn't have his contract renewed, he and other system leaders insisted that it wasn't a sign of his imminent departure. Officials noted that McRaven was the first UT System chancellor to get a contract and said leaders simply wanted to go back to the old way of doing things.

It would have been unusual for McRaven to continue on for long without a contract, though. The chancellors of the Texas A&M, University of Houston, Texas Tech and University of North Texas systems are all currently under contract.

McRaven didn't say what his plans would be after he left the system, though he has long been rumored to be a potential candidate for elected office or to return to the federal government. On Friday, he expressed less professionally ambitious goals.

"I want to teach," he said. "I want to write. I want to do some traveling. And as hackneyed as it sounds when someone is stepping down, I want to spend time with my family."

But, he added, "I am not leaving for a while, and we still have a lot of work to do."

Key among that work is trying to win that Los Alamos bid.

"I remain completely and fully committed to securing the bid for the Los Alamos National Laboratory," McRaven said. "I think the initiative is one of the most important in the history of the UT System. We have put together a world-class team to run the lab."

WORD OF THE DAY
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Garrulous
[gar-uh-luh s, gar-yuh-]
adjective
1. excessively talkative in a rambling, roundabout manner, especially about trivial matters.

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TODAYINMIDLAND

Things to do

Today

■ West Texas North Pole Village will feature Santa and Mrs. Claus, hayrides, Rudolph's Candy Store and more, noon, Rolling 7's Ranch Event Center, 11700 W. County Road 122, Odessa. $10 adults, $5 with unwrapped gift.

■ Old Miner's Maze interactive adventure features a maze, rock walls, mechanical bull and more, noon to 6 p.m., 4305 N. County Road 1140. Oldminersmaze.com.

■ Bridge game play, 1:30 p.m., Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. For more information call 682-8595.

■ Bingo Nights, 4 p.m., American Legion, 501 Veterans Airpark Lane. 682-5511.

■ Santa, Milk and Cookies, 2-5 p.m. Sunday at Miss Cayce's Christmas, 1012 Andrews Highway.

■ "Christmas, Chocolate and Charlie Brown," refreshments, games and "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "The Peanuts Movie," 6-9 p.m., Palmer Activity Christian Center, 1305 E. Illinois Ave.

Tuesday

■ Brown Bag Lunch and Sing will feature Andy Wilkinson of the Crossroads of Music Archive. Wilkinson will also perform during the event, 11:30 a.m., Petroleum Museum, 1500 interstate 20. Tea and dessert provided. Free. pbpetro.org.

■ "Merry-achi Christmas" with Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez, 8 p.m., Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $29.50-$45.50. wagnernoel.org.

Thursday

Hogwarts Holiday. This "Harry Potter"-themed event, 2:30-5:30 p.m., Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

Friday

Tejano Christmas Dance with Los Musicales y David Lee Garza, Jay Perez, Gary Hobbs, La Dezz, 7 p.m., Hacienda Event Center, 12610 State Highway 191. $25. haciendmidland.com.

Holiday fun

■ Very Merry Midland: Reindeer Games. The second annual event downtown will feature Santa's Workshop, ice skating, giant human snow globe, live holiday window displays and a new reindeer exhibit. Events run 1-5 today and 5-8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday at 303 W. Wall St. Free admission but $6 for skating and snow globe photos. Doyourcity.us.

■ Starbright Village and Community Tree Lighting. View the more than 300,000 lights and holiday displays. 5-11 p.m. through Jan. 1 at McKinney Park, 625 W. Pool Road, Odessa. Free. odessatxparks.org.

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Midland YMCA presented Family Fitmas, a healthy holiday celebration, on Saturday. More holiday photos appear on **Page 4A**.

Meetings this week

■ **Commissioners' Court**
9 a.m. Wednesday
Midland County Courthouse auxiliary courtroom
500 N. Loraine Ave.

■ **Midland ISD**
Noon Wednesday
Administation Building
615 W. Missouri Ave.

Memorial dedication

Show of Support will have a public dedication of the "Show of Support Hero Plaza" at noon Wednesday at 6 Desta Drive.

The completion of the memorial is to honor the four veterans who died and the others injured when a train hit a Show of Support parade float on Nov. 15, 2012.

Honor those who served

There are many organizations in operation right here in the Permian Basin that are at the task of serving all kinds of needs for present and former members of our military. Some of them are:

■ Show of Support (687-2167)
■ Honor Our Troops (889-0177)
■ Reel Thanx (528-6633)
■ Centers for Children and Families (570-1084)
■ Midland College Veterans Affairs Office (685-4511)
■ Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee (366-3458)
■ Soldiers of Today and Yesterday (631-3429)

Know a member of the military coming home?

Military families can call 352-0785 or email Vickie Gomez (zemogv@cableone.net) when they know their member of the military is flying into Midland International Airport so the Permian Basin Welcome Home Committee can be there to greet them.

Lottery

Pick 3 morning: 2-8-7
Pick 3 day: 8-9-6
Pick 3 evening: 4-2-3
Pick 3 night: 7-2-4
Daily 4 morning: 7-6-5-9
Daily 4 day: 5-9-3-0
Daily 4 evening: 9-9-3-6
Daily 4 night: 6-3-8-3
Cash Five: 5-17-19-30-32
Triple Chance: 16-23-24-26-27 33-37-41-45-46
Lotto Texas: 5-10-16-22-26-46
Powerball: 9-35-37-50-63 BB 11 Power Play: 2
All or Nothing morning: 3-4-7-8-13-14-16-17-21-22-23-24
All or Nothing day: 2-4-5-6-8-11-12-13-14-18-19-24
All or Nothing evening: 2-5-6-13-15-16-17-18-19-20-22-24
All or Nothing night: 1-2-3-7-8-10-15-17-18-20-21-23

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Weather

Saturday's temperatures
High ... 53
Low ... 34
Normal high ... 58
Normal low ... 30

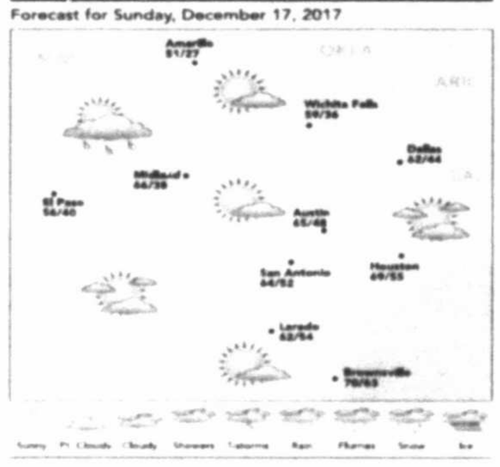
Dec. 16's records
Record high: 82, set in 2016
Record low: 12, set in 1989

Precipitation
Friday ... 0.00 in.
Saturday ... 0.00 in.
Month total ... 0.36 in.
Year total ... 17.70 in.
Normal total (year to date) ... 14.32 in.

Winds
Wind speed: 30 mph
Gust speed: 35 mph

Today's forecast
High: 65

Forecast for Sunday, December 17, 2017



Low: 39
Conditions: Sunny today/partly cloudy tonight
Winds: Southwest 5-10 mph today/east 5 mph tonight
Chance of rain: None
Sunrise ... 7:23 a.m.
Sunset ... 8:16 p.m.

Source: National Weather Service

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-dynamic; 4-positive; 3-average, 2-so-so; 1-difficult

***Note:** Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.*

A baby born today has a Sun and Moon in Sagittarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for **Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017:**

This year you will be unusually creative and dynamic. People want to know you better; they are drawn in by your charm and unique ideas. You know what you want, and you know how to get it. If you are single, you have a tendency to be adventurous. Be careful not to get involved with someone who is emotionally unavailable. If you are attached, the two of you have a lot of fun together. Make sure you allow your sweetie to share more of him- or herself. A fellow SAGITTARIUS considers you to be his or her soulmate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone you care deeply about. It is quite possible that you have not spoken to this person in a while; don't be surprised if he or she cops an attitude as a result. You know how to melt any barriers between you. **Tonight:** Let your imagination call the shots. **This Week:** You will be dealing with authority figures.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You hear a lot of news, but it appears that others might not be in the mood to hear your news. Know that you can do anything you want with your determination. Make time for a loved one. You are likely to hear some shocking news. **Tonight:** Think carefully before you react. **This Week:** You commit to experience life more fully.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might add to others' tension levels. An unexpected development surrounding a friend could have interesting results. You might not be comfortable with what you are hearing, especially as it is likely to affect you. **Tonight:** Be your sweet self, and you will like what happens. **This Week:** A partnership could become a source of stress.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You'll wonder what could make this day more relaxing. Consider canceling plans. New beginnings become possible, but only when you are up to snuff and relaxed. Someone finds you unusually kind and caring. Don't be surprised by a loved one's reaction. **Tonight:** Think ahead. **This Week:** Defer to others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Rethink a decision more carefully. Others seek you out for advice. A friend or loved one might be unusually frustrated and/or angry. This person could be wondering how to succeed in not losing his or her cool. Unexpected news heads your way. **Tonight:** Time for some R and R. **This Week:** A long-term change invites you to take better care of yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Consider your options more carefully. A certain amount of uproar becomes possible around your joint finances with a loved one. Find a way of making peace between the two of you by solving the issue at hand. **Tonight:** You could be surprised once by someone close to you. **This Week:** Emphasize concrete results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Keep conversations moving. Stay open to an unexpected development from a loved one. This person will have your day bubbling with fun. Curb your spending with your last-minute holiday errands. Great gifts don't need to cost much. **Tonight:** Hang out with a friend or two. **This Week:** Working from home makes a big difference in what occurs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might be overly concerned about finishing your Christmas shopping. Get off your duff and complete any holiday chores today. Understand that you will be exhausted when you're done, but you will feel much better as well. **Tonight:** Treat yourself to a favorite dessert. **This Week:** Try to not be so dramatic.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You are at your best, and you feel as if you can finally be responsive and caring with others. It is as if you have freed yourself from a black cloud that has been lingering over you as of late. Go over your gift list to make sure you have not forgotten anyone. **Tonight:** All smiles. **This Week:** Be careful when handling your finances.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might want to keep the curtains pulled and get more sleep. You have pushed yourself very hard over the past few weeks, and you deserve a timeout. Whom you decide to share this day with is your call. Do something just for you. **Tonight:** Screen your calls. **This Week:** You will be entering a new life cycle Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Focus on bringing loved ones together. You might not be comfortable with what someone says; consider putting some distance between you. A friend proves his or her loyalty by supporting you in your decisions and actions. **Tonight:** Show your appreciation. **This Week:** Worry less about ongoing issues.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You'll bring others together in the morning. Make sure that a child or loved one is included in your plans; otherwise, he or she could make you miserable for a sustained period of time. Your caring flows from one person to the next. **Tonight:** Go for what you want. **This Week:** You might be at a point where you can realize a long-term desire.

BORN TODAY
Pope Francis (1936), actor Bill Pullman (1953), actress Sarah Paulson (1974)

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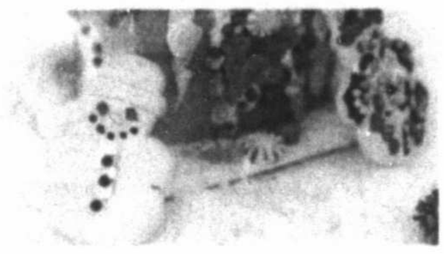


Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

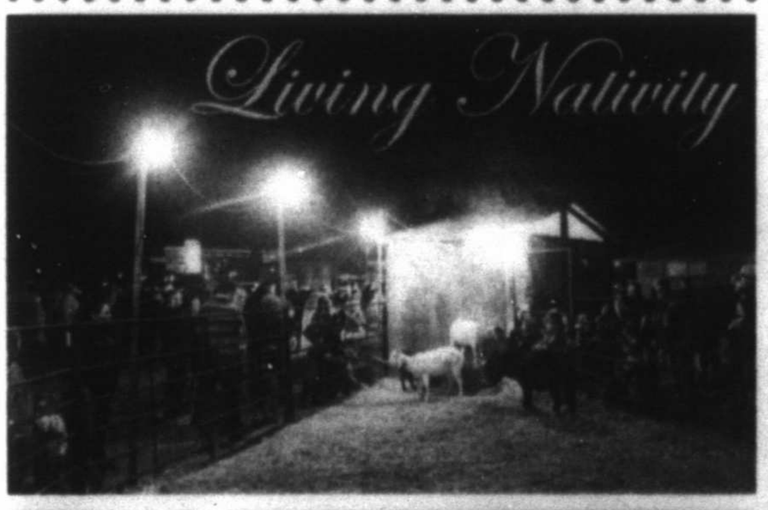
Jolie Greer tells Santa and Mrs. Claus her wish list 12/02/17 at Susie's South Forty,they were taking pictures with children and listening to their Christmas wish list.

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Adeline Brownlee and her twin sister Bennett enjoy hot chocolate and candy canes 12/07/17 evening during the Midland College Holiday Evening.

Tim Fischer/Reporter-Telegram

Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance 12/02/17 at Susie's South Forty, taking pictures with children and listening to their Christmas wish list.



First Baptist Church's annual living nativity, photographed Wednesday. James Durbin/ Reporter-Telegram

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

A gingerbread house at the Fitmas family holiday celebration Saturday at the YMCA.

Winter Market

James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Winter Market by the Midland Downtown Farmers Market on Saturday at the Museum of the Southwest

Crime of the week

The Midland County Sheriff's Office and Midland Crime Stoppers needs help on a robbery.

Deputies responded at about 10 p.m. Nov. 17 at the 7-Eleven convenience store at 13920 W. Highway 80 in reference to a robbery. The clerk said a Hispanic male wearing a black jacket with a hoodie entered the store and produced a weapon and demanded all the cash from the register. Suspect then left the store with an undisclosed amount of currency and headed westbound on foot.

If you are the first person to call with information leading to the arrest of the suspect involved in this case, it will be worth a $1,000 cash reward. You will remain anonymous and no caller ID is ever used.

Please visit our website at www.midlandcrimestoppers.com or visit our Facebook page @MidlandTxCS.

How to submit a secure tip

- **Hotline**: 694-TIPS or 1-800-7-LOCKUP
- **Online**: www.midlandcrimestoppers.com
- **Text**: Text TIP247 plus your message to 274637
- **Mobile app on iPhone or Android phones**: 'P3 TIPS' or go to www.p3tips.com
- **Facebook**: Click 'Submit A Tip' on left side of our Facebook page

Crime Stoppers fugitive

SAMANTHA TORRES

DOB: 7-30-1985
Height and weight: 5 foot 4; 123 pounds
Charge: Robbery – Violation of Probation

Torres

- Wanted as of 12-15-2017
- Warrant #CR41043
- $500 Cash Reward to the first person who calls Midland Crime Stoppers this week with information that leads to this fugitive's arrest.
- Call 694-TIPS or 1-800-7-LOCKUP
- Online at midlandcrimestoppers.com
- Mobile App 'P3 TIPS' or go to www.p3tips.com
- As always you will remain anonymous
- NEVER attempt to apprehend this subject yourself. Subject may be armed or dangerous.

Major media players start commission for sexual misconduct

By Andrew Dalton
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The biggest figures and institutions in entertainment have established a commission to be chaired by Anita Hill that intends to combat sexual misconduct and inequality in the industry in the wake of the huge wave of revelations spurred by allegations against Harvey Weinstein.

A statement Friday announced the founding of the Commission on Sexual Harassment and Advancing Equality in the Workplace, a group that grew out of a meeting called by "Star Wars" producer Kathleen Kennedy and several other prominent women in the industry.

"The Commission will not seek just one solution, but a comprehensive strategy to address the complex and interrelated causes of the problems of parity and power," Kennedy said in a statement.

The chief executives of nearly every major Hollywood studio, TV network and record label attended the meeting and agreed to found and to fund the group, the statement said. The long list includes Disney CEO Bob Iger, Paramount CEO Karen Stuart, Universal Music Group CEO Sir Lucian Grainge and CBS chief executive Leslie Moonves.

The movie and music academies and many of the major agencies and unions that represent entertainers also signed on.

"The fact that so many industry leaders across film, television, music, digital, unions, agencies ... and guilds — came together, in one room, to explore solutions speaks to a new era," Kennedy said.

The group chose as its chair the law professor Hill, who brought the concept of sexual harassment to national consciousness in 1991 when she testified during the Supreme Court confirmation hearings of Clarence Thomas.

"It is time to end the culture of silence," Hill said in a statement. "I've been at this work for 26 years. This moment presents us with an unprecedented opportunity to make real change."

The commission said in its statement that it would reconvene immediately after the first of the year to hone its mission, scope and priorities.

The revelations about Weinstein in The New York Times and the New Yorker in October have brought on two months unlike any the media world has ever seen, with nearly daily allegations of sexual harassment assault and abuse involving some of the most prominent players in entertainment including Kevin Spacey, Louis CK, Dustin Hoffman and Russell Simmons.

Hill has been making appearances in Southern California in recent days before Friday's announcement, speaking to a gathering of entertainers and executives in Beverly Hills last week.

Related stories

Read more sexual misconduct stories inside.

Page 11A

Please join us at Christmas
as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at

St. Ann's Catholic Church
1906 W. Texas Avenue
Midland, Texas
432-682-6303

Sacrament of Penance
Tuesday, December 19, 2017
Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Ann's, 7:00 P.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST

CHRISTMAS EVE
Sunday, December 24, 2017

5:00 P.M. Children's Christmas Mass with Children/Youth Choirs (Doors open at 4:00 P.M.)

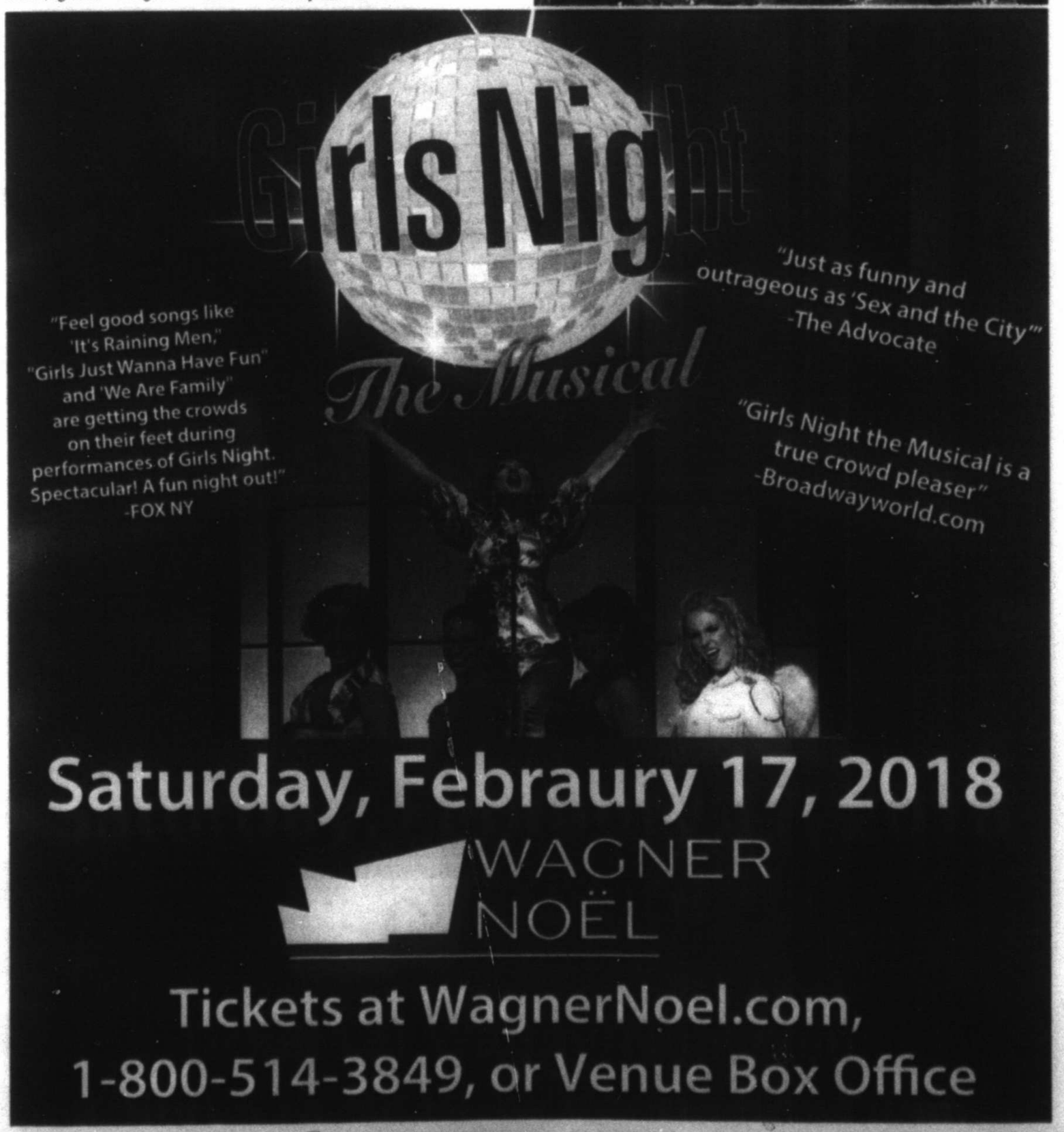
8:00 P.M. Vigil Mass of Christmas – Bi-lingual Preceded by Carols at 7:30 P.M.

11:00 P.M. Choral Christmas Eucharist Preceded by Carols with combined Choirs & Brass at 10:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY
Monday, December 25, 2017

Mass for Christmas Day

10:00 A.M.



For GOP, tax bill's most visible win may be averting failure

By Alan Fram
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite the sheer size and society-spanning impact of the $1.5 trillion tax overhaul, the quickest and most potent political victory that Republicans would savor by pushing the bill through Congress next week may be what it averts: another big GOP legislative crash in the age of Trump.

Even if Republicans are correct that tax cuts for business and the wealthy bolster the economy, it can take time for obvious results to show. And even with millions of families likely to enjoy lower taxes, many won't feel much until they file their 2018 tax returns in early 2019. That's well after the November 2018 elections that may be a coin flip for control of Congress, and recent races suggest those contests may be heavily influenced by President Donald Trump's unpopularity.

Approval of the tax bill seems certain, with House passage assured and two of the few potential Senate GOP opponents lining up Friday behind the measure Marco Rubio of Florida and Tennessee's Bob Corker. That means a White House signing ceremony, probably by Christmas.

Republicans hope that would overshadow their embarrassing failure to repeal President Barack Obama's health law. Another flop would have infuriated GOP backers and donors already enraged by the Affordable Care Act debacle, fueling hard-right primary challenges against Republican incumbents or encouraging conservatives to stay home in November.

If the tax bill isn't approved, "the country's reaction is going to be, 'Why did we put you in in the first place?'" said David Winston, a GOP pollster who advises congressional leaders.

"Passing the tax bill is necessary but not sufficient for Republicans to retain control of Congress in 2018," said GOP consultant Whit Ayres. "It does give the party a concrete accomplishment that they can take to the voters, and that's critical."

Democrats view the tax legislation as a rich political opportunity.

Surveys this month have shown clear majorities oppose the legislation. Quinnipiac University and Marist polls also find that at least 6 in 10 people surveyed say the bill would primarily help the rich. Analyses by Congress' nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation have shown most benefits going to corporations and the wealthy, with more modest help for middle- and low-income families, an attack angle Democrats are already using.

"It's daylight robbery," House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said last week. "And with every iteration, the GOP tax scam becomes even more cowardly, outrageous, dishonest, brazen. Theft from middle-class families, giving money from them to the richest people in our country and to corporations."

Democrats see another opening in the measure's $10,000 limit on deductions for state and local property, income and sales taxes. That could raise taxes for suburban voters in high-tax states such as California, New York and New Jersey. Democrats who did surprisingly well among suburban voters in their recent victories in the Alabama Senate and Virginia governor's races and in local contests around the country see the bill as another path to corralling that critical bloc next November.

Democrats need to gain 24 seats to capture majority control of the House. The Senate is a tougher task even after Democrat Doug Jones' upset in Alabama cut the GOP edge to 51-49.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York called the bill's trimming of deductions "a gut punch to millions of middle class and upper-middle-class Americans who live in the suburbs, the same people who are turning away from President Trump."

Other provisions give Democrats tempting populist targets.

The individual tax cuts expire in 2026 while corporate reductions are permanent. Especially over time, many families would see their taxes rise, not fall.

The bill's repeal of the Obama health law's tax penalty on people not buying coverage is expected to drive up insurance premiums by about 10 percent, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, though Republicans might pass additional legislation to ease that.

Republicans note that beginning early next year, people could increase their take home pay by reducing the money withheld in their paychecks to reflect tax changes. They say the bill's poor polling would be trumped by its effect on people.

"I'm convinced this is going to launch more investment in businesses and workers. I'm convinced this is going to give bigger paychecks, a simpler system," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

"This legislation will bring real relief to the middle class by taking money out of Washington's pocket and putting it into theirs," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. He added: "Only those who don't know the struggles of hardworking American families could conclude otherwise."

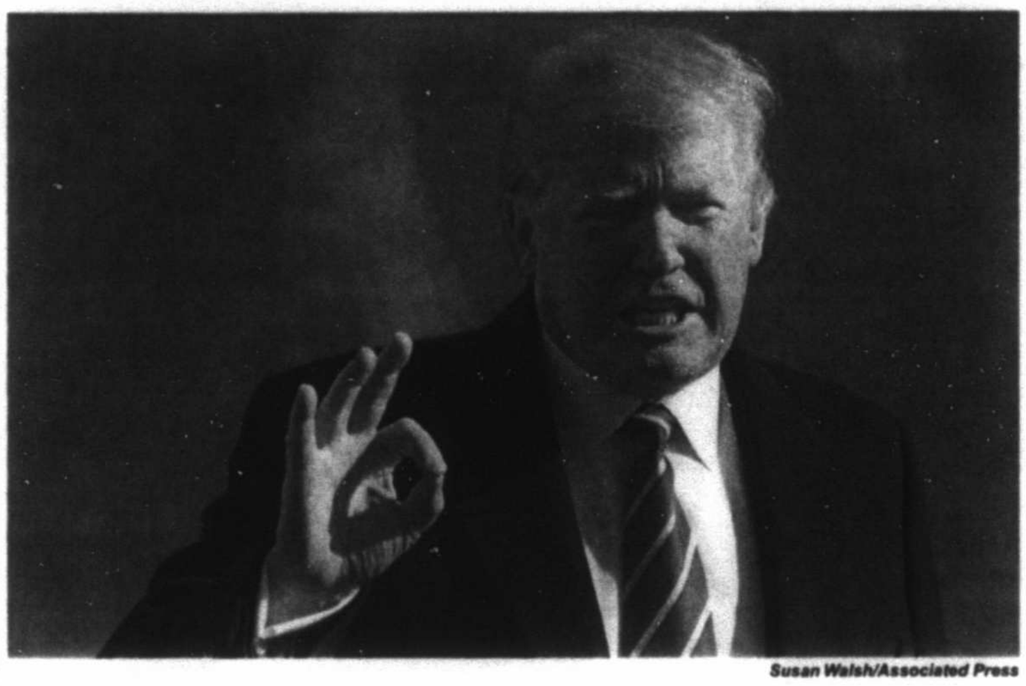
Trump told reporters Saturday that Democrats "have their sound bite, the standard sound bite, before they even know what the bill is all about."

Some Republicans worry they may experience the same fate as Democrats after they approved the health law in 2010. That November, Democratic incumbents were defeated in droves, costing them House control.

"Legislative success does not necessarily translate into political success. Just ask the Democrats," said Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Pa., a moderate who's retiring next year. "We're going to be running with the wind in our face regardless of what's accomplished."

Part of that headwind could come from Trump, which worries many Republicans.

"If we get some things done it'll maybe improve our chances, but the president's not making it any easier," said Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho. "He's making it very, very difficult. All the news about his latest tweet and what he says and then he gets mad at us because we don't defend it. So we'll see."



Susan Walsh/Associated Press

President Donald Trump talks with reporters Saturday as he departs from the South Lawn of the White House via Marine One in Washington to spend the weekend at Camp David in Maryland.

Trump defends tax plan, proclaims economy set 'to rock'

By Jonathan Lemire and Stephen Ohlemacher
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Closing in on the first major legislative achievement of his term, President Donald Trump on Saturday defended the Republican tax cut as a good deal for the middle class while boldly suggesting it could lead to explosive economic growth.

The legislation, which the GOP aims to muscle through Congress next week, would lower taxes on the richest Americans. Benefits for most other taxpayers would be smaller, but Trump attempted to sell the bill as a "Christmas present" for middle-class Americans in part because it would trigger job growth.

"It'll be fantastic for the middle-income people and for jobs, most of all," Trump told reporters on the White House lawn before traveling to Camp David for the weekend. "And I will say that because of what we've done with regulation and other things our economy is doing fantastically well, but it has another big step to go and it can't take that step unless we do the tax bill."

No stranger to hyperbole, Trump also predicted the legislation would cause the economy to soar beyond its current 3 percent rate of growth.

"I think we could go to 4, 5 or even 6 percent, ultimately," the president said. "We are back. We are really going to start to rock."

Many economists believe that attaining consistent 4 or 5 percent annual growth would be challenging. The nation last topped 5 percent growth in 1984.

The Republican plan is the widest-ranging reshaping of the tax code in three decades and is expected to add to the nation's $20 trillion debt. The tax cuts are projected to add $1.46 trillion over a decade.

Under the bill, today's 35 percent rate on corporations would fall to 21 percent, the crown jewel of the measure for many Republicans. Trump and GOP leaders had set 20 percent as their goal but added a point to free money for other tax cuts that won over wavering lawmakers in final talks.

"This is happening. Tax reform under Republican control of Washington is happening," House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin told rank-and-file members in a conference call Friday. "Most critics out there didn't think it could happen. ... And now we're on the doorstep of something truly historic."

The bill would repeal an important part of President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act — the requirement that all Americans have health insurance or face a penalty — as the GOP looks to unravel a law it failed to repeal and replace this past summer. It came together as Republicans cemented the needed support for the overhaul, securing endorsements from wavering senators.

Marco Rubio of Florida relented in his high-profile opposition after negotiators expanded the tax credit that parents can claim for their children. He said he would vote for the measure next week.

Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, the only Republican to vote against the Senate version earlier this month, made the surprise announcement that he would back the legislation. Corker, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has repeatedly warned that the nation's growing debt is the most serious threat to national security.

"I realize this is a bet on our country's enterprising spirit, and that is a bet I am willing to make," Corker said.

The bill embodies a long-standing Republican philosophy that a substantial tax break for businesses will trigger economic growth and job creation for Americans in a trickle-down economy. Skeptical Democrats are likely to oppose the legislation unanimously.

"Under this bill, the working class, middle class and upper middle class get skewered while the rich and wealthy corporations make out like bandits," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York. "It is just the opposite of what America needs, and Republicans will rue the day they pass this."

The bill would drop today's 39.6 percent top rate on individuals to 37 percent. The standard deduction — used by around two-thirds of households — would be nearly doubled, to $24,000 for married couples.

The $1,000-per-child tax deduction would grow to $2,000, with up to $1,400 available in IRS refunds for families who owe little or no taxes. Parents would have to provide children's Social Security numbers to receive the child tax credit, a measure intended to deny the credit to people who are in the U.S. illegally.

Those who itemize would lose some deductions. The deduction that millions use in connection with state and local income, property and sales taxes would be capped at $10,000. That's especially important to residents of high-tax states such as New York, New Jersey and California. Deductions for medical expenses that lawmakers once considered eliminating would be retained.

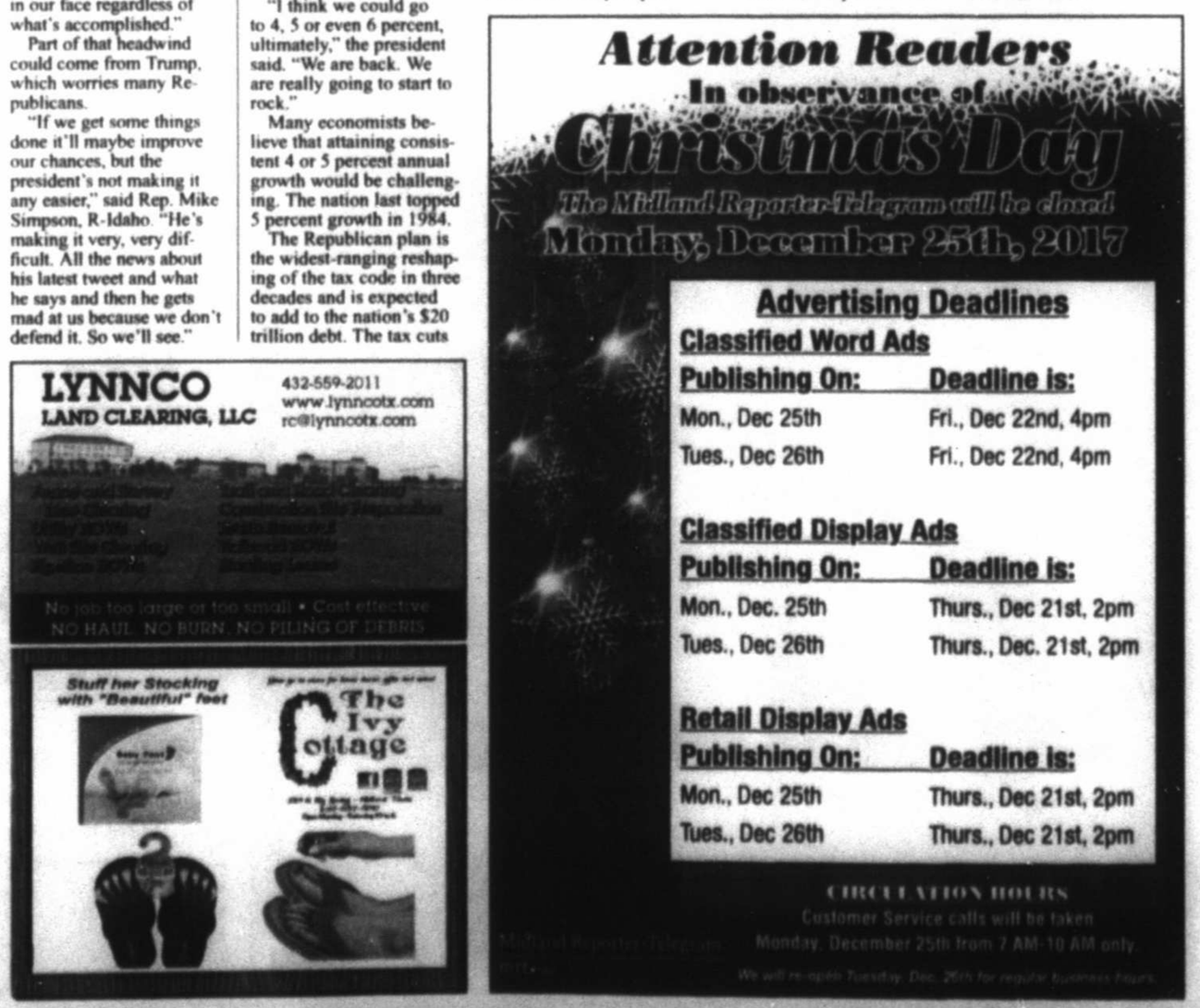
The bill would allow homeowners to deduct interest only on the first $750,000 of a new mortgage, down from the current limit of $1 million.

People who inherit fortunes would get a big break. The bill would double the exemption, meaning the estate tax would apply only to the portion of an estate over $22 million for married couples.

Members of a House-Senate conference committee signed the final version of the legislation Friday, sending it to the two chambers for final passage next week.

Republicans hold a slim 52-48 majority in the Senate, and two ailing GOP senators missed votes this past week.

John McCain of Arizona, who is 81, is at a Washington-area military hospital being treated for the side effects of brain cancer treatment, and 80-year-old Thad Cochran of Mississippi had a non-melanoma lesion removed from his nose earlier this week. GOP leaders are hopeful they will be available next week.



Sign-ups show health law's staying power in Trump era

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A deadline burst of sign-ups after a tumultuous year for the Obama health law has revealed continued demand for the program's subsidized individual health plans. But the Affordable Care Act's troubles aren't over.

On the plus side for the overhaul, official numbers showed a sizable share of first-time customers, 36 percent, were among those rushing to finish HealthCare.gov applications in the run-up to Friday's enrollment deadline.

"People need health care, that is plain and simple," said Kevin Watkins of Florence, Alabama. A self-employed consultant helping small businesses sell online, Watkins re-enrolled for 2018. He'll pay under $100 a month after subsidies.

Final national enrollment numbers aren't expected until next year because some states running their own insurance websites extended sign-ups to Jan. 31. States in charge of their own programs are striving to equal last year's enrollment.

Enrollment in the 39 states served by HealthCare.gov is expected to be lower, which could intensify criticism of the Trump administration's decision to cut the federal sign-up season in half. The administration has extended the deadline for some people to finish their health insurance. Callers to the HealthCare.gov service center on Saturday morning got a recorded message saying "don't worry" — if they had left their phone number before the deadline, they will get a return call and still can enroll for 2018.

Nationally, 12.2 million people had enrolled by the end of the Obama administration's final sign-up period. Under Trump, there could be 1 million to 2 million fewer sign-ups, said Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

Still, it was only a year ago that the health law seemed headed for oblivion as Donald Trump swept into the White House with a Republican-controlled Congress. Now its full repeal seems to be off the table. But the program for people who don't have job-based coverage faces the same old challenges of high premiums and declining insurer participation, along with some new ones. One new challenge comes from the GOP tax bill, which repeals the law's requirement that people have health insurance or risk fines.

Parallel to that, the administration is preparing to issue rules facilitating the sale of lower-cost insurance plans that will deliver less than the law's "essential" benefits package.

Put the combination together and experts say it will draw healthy customers away from already shaky ACA insurance markets, raising premiums for those left behind and giving insurers new reasons to drop out.

The law's supporters were still upbeat as the shortened open enrollment season in most states wound down.

"What we are seeing is that this insurance is meeting people's needs and it is affordable if you receive financial assistance," said Elizabeth Colvin of Foundation Communities, a nonprofit in Austin, Texas, that helps low-income people enroll. "So much of the story has been telling people that the ACA is not working. That's not the reality in central Texas."

It was Trump who most notably predicted a spectacular collapse for the law.

"It's imploding, and soon will explode, and it's not going to be pretty," he said this year.

After a repeal failed in Congress, Trump stopped payments to reimburse insurers for subsidizing copayments and deductibles, thereby boosting premiums. His administration also cut the federal open enrollment season in half, slashed the ad budget and pulled back money for counselors who help people sign up.

But as premiums increased, financial assistance also went up for those eligible. Under the law, their premiums are limited to a percentage of household income, so those who qualify for help are cushioned from premium spikes.

Instead, the full impact of rising premiums hit an estimated 8 million to 9 million people who buy individual health plans but aren't eligible for income-based assistance.

"I am at my wits' end," said Kris Case. "I would love to have health insurance, but it's like a luxury. Every year it's gotten more expensive."

The Denver-area resident, who's in her 50s and doesn't have coverage through her job in client relations for a startup, says she's seen premiums as high as $1,400 a month.

Ongoing turmoil will translate to demands for Congress to act. But with lawmakers divided by party and faction, it's not certain what can be done.

"Any thought of 'repeal and replace' is clearly gone," said health economist Gail Wilensky, who served in a previous GOP administration. Alabama voters' election of Democrat Doug Jones to the Senate underscores that, she said. "Undoing something that has been in place now for close to four years is not a practical way to resolve issues."

Pending legislation could have contradictory consequences.

Many experts believe the GOP tax bill's repeal of the insurance mandate will undermine markets by giving healthy people an out.

After Alabama, abortion may be backseat issue in 2018 races

By Bill Barrow
Associated Press

John Bazemore/Associated Press

Democrat Doug Jones speaks during an interview Dec. 13 with the Associated Press, in Birmingham, Ala.

ATLANTA — Alabama, one of the most conservative states in the country, with one of the most evangelical electorates, is sending an abortion-rights supporter to the U.S. Senate, despite GOP efforts to paint Democrat Doug Jones as an unacceptable extremist on the issue.

Certainly, any analysis of what Jones' upset over Roy Moore means for other races involves a caveat: The Republican nominee was twice ousted from the state Supreme Court and stood accused of sexual misconduct with minors, baggage that gave Jones an opening in a state that hadn't elected a Democratic senator since 1992.

Yet Jones could not have won without crossover votes from conservative Republicans who oppose abortion, and that's just what he did.

Exit polls show Jones won a third of voters who said abortion should be illegal in most cases, and 27 percent of those who want it outlawed completely.

These numbers suggest that abortion may not necessarily be a defining issue in the 2018 midterm elections.

Abortion is "still a dividing line in American politics," said Republican pollster Greg Strimple, who surveys voters for the Congressional Leadership Fund, the political action committee backed by Speaker Paul Ryan that is helping defend the GOP's House majority.

But a candidate's stand on abortion mobilizes only slices of the two parties' bases, and for most every voter in between, "it's a secondary issue," Strimple said.

There's an argument that this contest was unusually unsavory for conservatives, making them choose between a man accused of preying on girls, and a Democrat. But it's clear that Jones' support of legalized abortion wasn't a deal-breaker for just enough Republicans to give Democrats a 20,000-vote margin, out of more than 1.35 million votes cast.

That's heartening for Democrats looking to dent Republican domination in Congress and statehouses by targeting voters dissatisfied with President Donald Trump and unhappy over Republican moves to roll back Democrats' 2010 health insurance expansion and push tax cuts tilted to corporations and wealthy individuals.

"We are competing on a massive offensive battlefield, in districts that went for both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, and that are suburban, rural and urban," said Meredith Kelly of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. "Regardless of where they are running, (our) candidates have no reason to compromise on their support for a woman's health care, her right to choose, and her economic security."

Nationwide, polling suggests that a majority of Americans avoid taking an absolutist stance on abortion. According to a Pew assessment in July, the largest plurality is the 33 percent of voters who say abortion should be legal in most cases. The next largest segment, at 25 percent, says it should be legal in all cases. Twenty-four percent say abortion should be illegal in most cases, while just 16 percent say it should be illegal in all cases.

Of course, those voters aren't distributed proportionally across state and congressional boundaries, and partisan leanings are much more intense: 65 percent of self-identified Republicans say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases, while 75 percent of Democrats say it should be legal in most or all cases. Independents lean in favor of access, with 60 percent saying it should be legal.

Religious influence sharpens voters' leanings further. White evangelical protestants are the most likely religious group to oppose abortion rights: 70 percent say it should be illegal in most or all cases. Majorities of Catholics, black protestants and mainline protestants all support more access, while unaffiliated voters lean overwhelmingly toward legality.

A state like Alabama, where Republican nominees usually win at least 60 percent of the vote and where half the population is white evangelical protestant (as opposed to a quarter nationally), is more fundamentally anti-abortion than many other states now under Republican control, such as Ohio or Wisconsin, which have far fewer evangelicals proportionally and are typically presidential battlegrounds.

It's also true that nearly all the 91 House districts that national Democrats are targeting are less Republican than Alabama. Democrats need to flip 24 GOP-held seats for a House majority. In the Senate, Republicans will have a narrow 51-49 advantage when Jones is sworn in, meaning they need a net gain of two seats to regain control. Democrats also must defend 10 seats in states where Trump won, but all these states are less conservative than Alabama, perhaps with the exception of North Dakota.

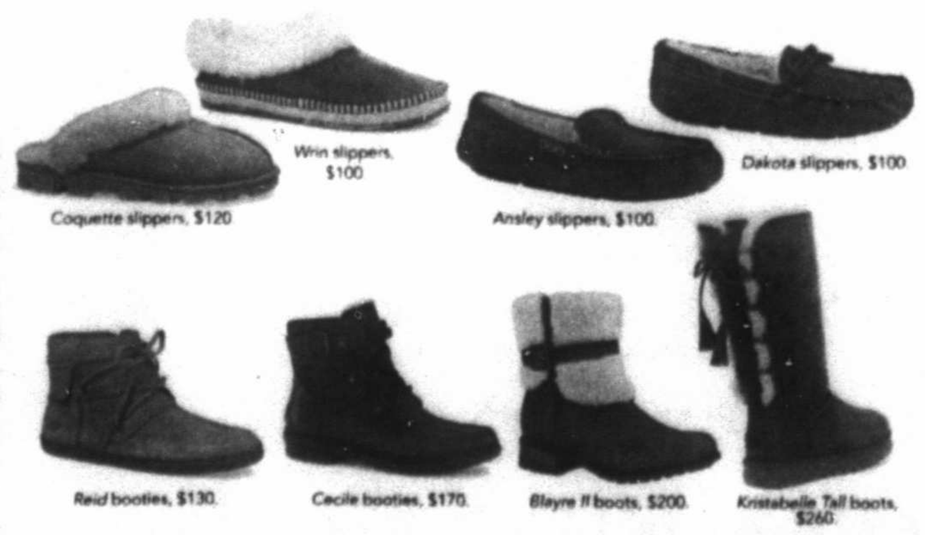
In Alabama, Moore and his supporters certainly tried to make abortion a dividing line. Republicans circulated an interview in which Jones affirmed his position. After losing, Moore highlighted the issue again in a video to supporters explaining his refusal to concede. "Abortion, sodomy and materialism have taken the place of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," he said, lamenting that "we have killed over 60 million of our unborn children."

Yet throughout the campaign, including the months before the sexual misconduct allegations surfaced in early November, Jones stood his ground, certainly not emphasizing abortion rights, but not denying his views when asked.

Dillard's
The Style of Christmas.

the UGG gifts on her list

Bailey Bow II, $205. Bailey Button Triplet II, $220. Classic Short II, $160. Classic Tall II, $200. Bailey Button II, $170.



Coquette slippers, $120. Wrin slippers, $100. Ansley slippers, $100. Dakota slippers, $100.

Reid booties, $130. Cecile booties, $170. Blayre II boots, $200. Kristabelle Tall boots, $260.

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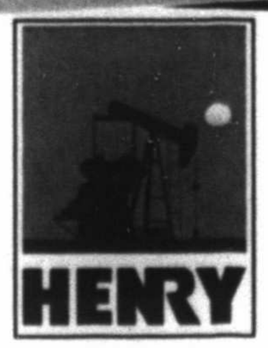


Luke 2:1

(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

Q&A: Why don't Mexicans just apply for citizenship?

By Dianne Solis
Associated Press

DALLAS — Mexicans are the largest group of immigrants living in the U.S.

They've been under pressure since President Donald Trump called for construction of a wall between the U.S. and Mexico and said Mexico wasn't sending its "best people."

So why don't Mexicans and other immigrants just get in line for their green cards so they can later apply for citizenship? Well, it's not that easy.

Six reasons why:

You need a green card. And they're hard to get.

Immigrants must qualify for a green card, which allows them to live and work in the U.S. legally. Permanent residency is usually obtained because an employer needs the immigrant to work a particular job, or because the immigrant has a close relative living in the U.S.

The immigrant must show they won't become a public charge of the government, pass a medical exam and, in many cases, get a sponsor who will attest that they accept financial responsibility for the immigrant. But it can take years and, in the case of Mexicans, even decades.

Why does it take so long?

A backlog is built into the system. About 1 million green cards are issued each year, but there are limits in some categories.

There's no limits on immediate family — spouses and unmarried sons and daughters under 21 and parents of U.S. citizens ages 21 years or older. The largest number of green cards are given to immediate relatives. But the federal immigration act provides for an annual limit of 226,000 slots for immigrants under family-sponsored categories where no immediate relative is applying: For example, brothers and sisters of adult U.S. citizens. It also calls for an annual limit of 140,000 under the employment-based categories. That's further complicated by limits on the number of people who can come from each country.

One can also get a humanitarian visa, or a diversity visa. All in all, about 1 million people get residency each year.

What countries have the longest wait times?

Wait times vary based on how a person might qualify for a green card. For example, as of this month, it takes at least 22 years for a person from Mexico to get a green card if they're the married son or daughter of a U.S. citizen.

The four countries with the longest wait times for family and for employer-sponsored permanent visas are Mexico, India, China and the Philippines. So the line is very long.

The State Department publishes a monthly bulletin updating applicants on the earliest month and year of the green card applications that are being reviewed.

Why so long for Mexicans?

Mexico is the U.S.'s largest source of immigrants — both lawfully and unlawfully here.

They made up about 28 percent of all immigrants in 2014, according to the Pew Research Center. Because Mexico is our neighbor and has so many immigrants with deep ties to the U.S., there are many more Mexicans waiting for green cards.

Right now, about 1.3 million Mexicans are waiting to learn whether they can get family-sponsored green cards, according to a federal government report. And that's just be those who are located outside the U.S.

This is how far behind they are: The State Department is now processing visas for the Mexican married sons or daughters of U.S. citizens who have been waiting in line since May 1995.

It's slightly worse for Filipinos who have visa dates of March 1995 for the same family relationship.

Another example: A brother or sister from Mexico of an adult U.S. citizen would have to be waiting in line since Oct. 1997.

But because fewer are applying from India and the caps for India are different, a brother or sister from India would have to be waiting in line since November 2003.

Can an unauthorized immigrant already living in the U.S. apply for legal permanent residency?

It depends, says Dan Kowalski, an immigration attorney and the editor of Bender's Immigration Bulletin.

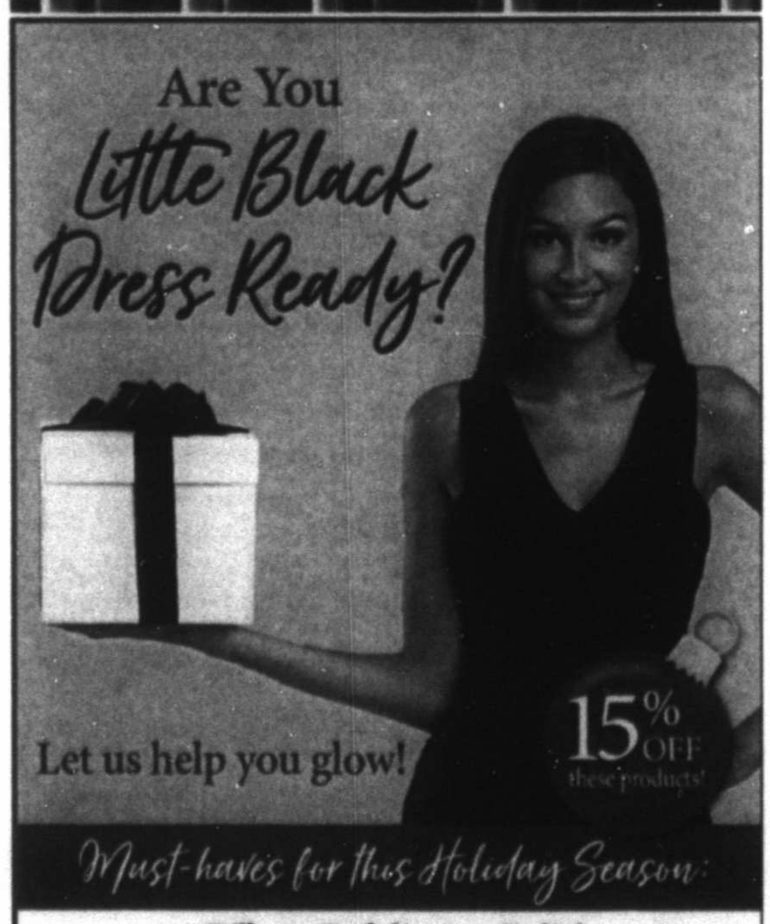
The immigrant can apply for a waiver for the fact they are already here unlawfully, if they have a qualifying relative or another way to apply, Kowalski said.

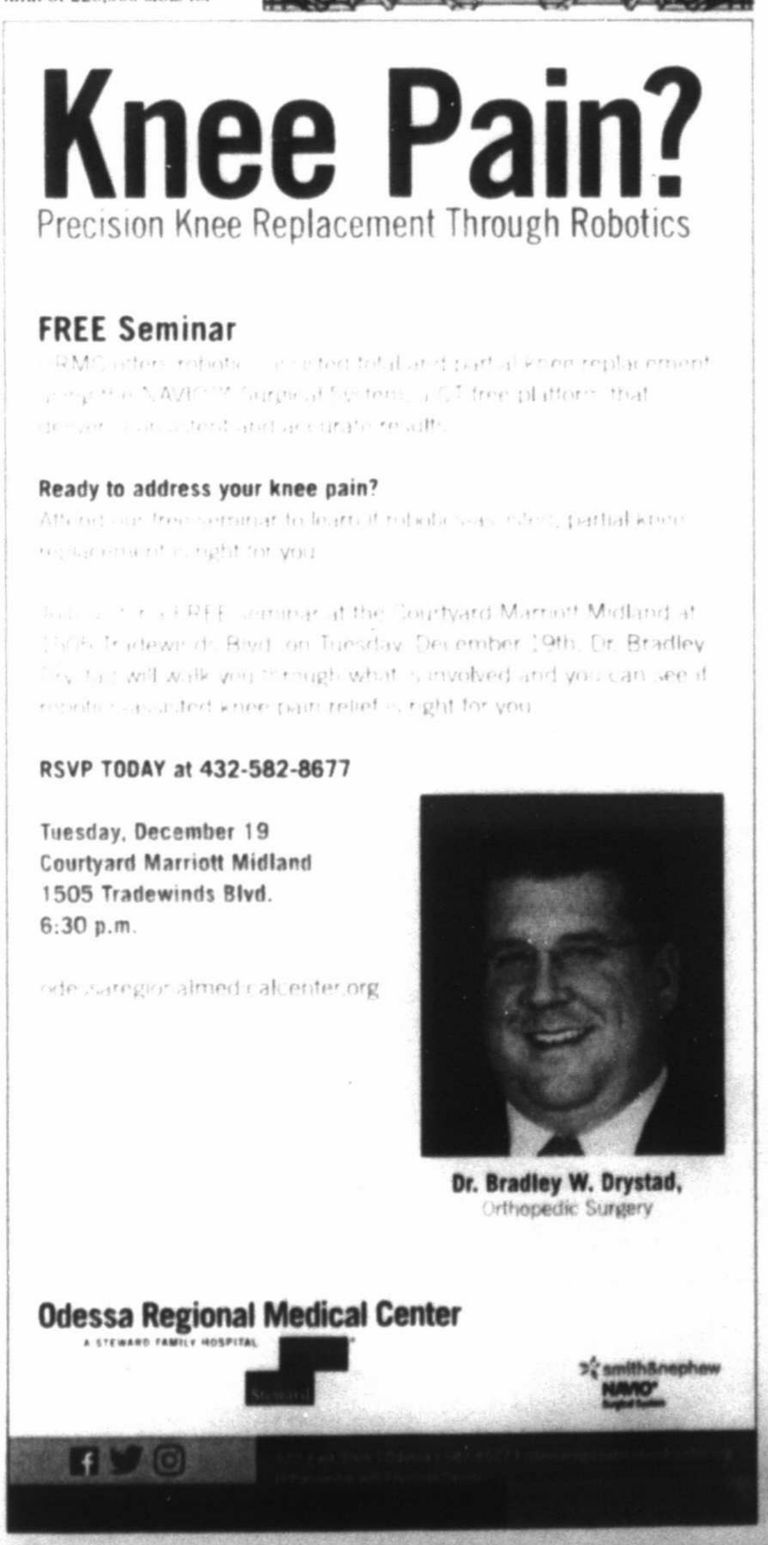
But getting such waivers is difficult, Kowalski said.

Are there efforts afoot to limit legal immigration?

Legal immigration is in the limelight now as Congress considers legislation that would cut in half the number of green cards currently awarded each year.

The biggest target are those green cards that reunify family members who are non-immediate relatives, Kowalski notes.





EYE ON DEVELOPMENT

Airport: Record number of passengers board airlines in Midland

The 47,332 people who boarded either Southwest, United or American topped the 44,381 who boarded an airline in November 2014. The city is reporting 12 straight months of increases — compared to the same month during the previous years.

The number of people boarding a commercial airline at Midland International Airport jumped 15.5 percent in November to set a new record for the second-to-last month of the year.

Total passengers (those getting on or off an airplane)
November 2017: 93,370
(13 percent increase compared to 2016-17)

PARKING REVENUES

November 2017
$321,931
November 2016
$279,263
Percentage increase
15.3
FY total: 669,129
(18 percent increase compared to 2016-17)

Airplane boardings

November 2017: 47,332
November 2016: 40,977
Percentage increase:15.5

FY total: 93,166 (13 percent increase compared to 2016-17)

Past November boardings

2015: 40,638 2014: 44,381
2013: 40,089 2012: 41,307
2011: 40,096 2010: 37,802
2009: 33,094 2008: 35,955

Fuel sales (gallons)

November 2017: 418,501 November 2016: 409,687

Percentage increase: 2.2

FY total: 843,708 (6.7 percent increase compared to 2016-17)

Source: City of Midland

MDC approves additional funds for Carver Street project

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

On Tuesday, the Midland Development Corp. board held its meeting with a full agenda. Here are highlights from the meeting.

■ **Carver Street:** Earlier this year, the MDC approved contributing $1.7 million toward construction projects at Carver Street and Scharbauer Drive, including improvements to drainage basins and Scharbauer Draw.

However, figures used by the city to create an estimate were out of date; thus, the city requested about an additional $600,000 to make up the difference. The board approved, with member Stephen Lowery abstaining.

■ **Executive director search:** Executive Director Pam Welch retired this summer, and the MDC is searching for her replacement.

While a vote earlier in the year prevented the MDC from hiring a search firm, the board approved doing so Tuesday after months of not receiving any applications from qualified applicants.

Chairman Brent Hilliard said the goal is to recruit someone locally; however, it is his opinion the candidates should have backgrounds that are more business-related, not economic development-related.

The MDC received about 60 applications since summer. About four had the relevant background.

■ **Lawsuits:** The board approved hiring law firm Cotton, Bledsoe Tighe & Dawson for filing amicus curiae briefs in a pair of cases that affect economic development corporations (EDCs) in Texas.

Vice Chairman Keith Stretcher, former city attorney, said these cases are important to the MDC because when it and other EDCs enter into a contract, damages are set at the most that is owed under the contract.

If immunity is lost, EDCs possibly could have damages far in excess of contract and tort issues.

Stretcher says the MDC should want to preserve the law as it exists today, as it has existed since the beginning.

Larry Little v. City of Leon Valley argues that EDCs have limited immunity, while Rosenberg Development Corp. v. Imperial Performing Arts says EDCs don't have any immunity.

■ **Downtown:** The board approved a motion authorizing Hilliard to enter into agreements to purchase property in downtown Midland over a period of six months.

The area of interest is generally located north of Front Street, south of Cuthbert Avenue, east of "A" Street and west of Lamesa Road.

■ **Doctor recruitment:** The board approved payment to the hospital district in the sum of $88,339.42 as part of the MDC's agreement to help fund doctor recruitment.

In a presentation, Midland Memorial Hospital said 14 doctors were recruited to Midland last year; much of the recruitment was possible because of the MDC's investment.

XCOR update: Bankruptcy court now recognizes the MDC as a secured creditor

By Trevor Hawes
thawes@mrt.com

The MDC voted at its meeting Tuesday to amend its agreement with bankrupt aerospace company XCOR to pursue becoming a secured creditor.

In 2012, the MDC paid XCOR $10 million to relocate its headquarters to Midland from Mojave, California. The original contract did not have the MDC as a collateralized secured creditor.

Tuesday's action was a retroactive approval, as Chairman Brent Hilliard had filed uniform commercial code (UCC) financing statements with the Texas, California and Florida secretaries of state on Nov. 8, the day XCOR filed for bankruptcy in California.

The bankruptcy court now recognizes the MDC as a secured creditor, according to court documents. XCOR's debt to the economic development group is the full $10 million.

In the same document, it is stated that XCOR has $1,106,624.21 in assets — all of it personal property — and $27,460,550.15 in total liabilities. Of its liabilities, $13,860,756.59 is for creditors who have secured claims. Space Florida is another major creditor with a secured claim.

Space Florida, a state-backed economic development group, enticed XCOR with a $5.7 million deal, according to a 2012 Space News article. XCOR agreed to manufacture and fly the Lynx from Kennedy Space Center.

Space Florida says XCOR owes it more than $3.6 million, according to a court filing.

On Oct. 25, Space Florida submitted civil lawsuit filings in Midland County court. On Oct. 31, Judge George D. "Jody" Gilles granted a temporary restraining order against XCOR so that Space Florida could obtain electronically stored information from XCOR's servers, hard drives and other devices. XCOR did not attend the hearing.

The remaining liabilities are split between priority unsecured claims ($13,364.55) and nonpriority unsecured claims ($13,586,429.01).

In original financial filings, XCOR reported having $1,424.66 in cash.

No value was given to the Lynx MK1, a spaceplane in development that would take off and land horizontally. Between $15 million and $20 million would be required to finish the Lynx, according to documents. An estimated $25 million to $30 million was invested.

Also on Tuesday, the board approved a resolution allowing agreements with law firms for legal matters tied to the XCOR bankruptcy. The original item was amended to specify XCOR; the board considered the wording of the original resolution too general, encompassing all legal matters. Hilliard abstained from voting.

The board also ratified a month-to-month contract with Cirro Energy to provide power for hangars A and B at Midland International Air & Space Port. XCOR previously was paying for electricity there.

BUILDING PERMITS Dec. 4-8

2901 Rankin Highway	New Commercial	2805 Kentucky Ave.	Commercial Alteration	2507 Timber Wolf Trail	Residence-Detached	10316 Hernandez Ave.	New Residence
500 W. Illinois Ave.	Commercial Alteration	2513 Regency Oaks Court	Swimming Pool	3415 W. Ohio Ave.	Residence-Detached	1214 Cedar Creek Road	New Residence
5214 Thomason Drive	Commercial-Accessory Building	401 Waverly Drive	Residence-Detached	6129 Turtle Creek Road	New Residence	1218 Cedar Creek Road	New Residence
5500 Avalon Drive	Commercial Alteration	1716 Connie Drive	New Residence	4515 Meadowlark Lane	Residence-Detached	1220 Cedar Creek Road	New Residence
1001 W. Illinois Ave.	Commercial Alteration	1709 S. Weatherford St.	New Residence	704 S. Atlanta St.	Residence-Detached	1222 Cedar Creek Road	New Residence
3415 N. Loop 250 W.	Commercial Alteration	1217 Connie Drive	New Residence	6418 Saddle Horn Lane	Residence-Detached		

Source: City of Midland

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NAFTA may be on track for an unhappy new year as talks languish

By Andrew Mayeda, Josh Wingrove, Eric Martin
Bloomberg

The U.S., Mexico and Canada are heading into 2018 with no clear plan for saving the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Negotiators are poised to wrap up their latest round of talks Friday in Washington without closing any new chapters of a revamped accord. While officials made headway on issues such as telecommunications and e-commerce last week, according to people familiar with the talks, the parties haven't finalized agreements on even minor issues since October. The lack of progress makes the goal of reaching a deal by March seem increasingly unrealistic.

"People have to be planning for what they do in a worst-case scenario," said Robert Holleyman, a partner at Crowell & Moring who served as deputy U.S. Trade Representative under Barack Obama. "At the same time, I've never seen industry more involved across all sectors in making the case that the U.S. needs to come out with a Nafta that allows all three countries to declare victory."

Only two chapters are completed out of a new deal that's expected to include nearly 30. The three nations had already punted discussion of tough issues such as regional-content requirements for cars to qualify for NAFTA's benefits and investor-state dispute systems, where U.S. proposals have been described as unworkable by Canada and Mexico.

With a general election in Mexico and a U.S. congressional vote next year, time is running out to salvage the 23-year-old accord, which governs more than $1 trillion in trade. President Donald Trump has threatened to pull out of the deal if a new pact doesn't favor the U.S. The next round of talks in Montreal from Jan. 23-28 is looming as a key moment.

Expectations for major breakthroughs at the past two rounds of talks were dampened by the lack of political involvement. The ministers responsible for NAFTA are expected to directly participate in the discussions again at the meetings next month in Canada.

The slow pace of talks that began in August, and Trump's brinkmanship, have fueled speculation about what would happen if the U.S. issues a six-month withdrawal notice under the agreement. Trade lawyers and economists in Washington are debating whether Congress has the authority to block the president from raising tariffs on Mexico and Canada.

"Trump can tweet that he's withdrawn, but the tariff preferences could remain in place," said Caroline Freund, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "It would be withdrawal on paper, but not in substance."

Republican lawmakers, including Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, have warned Trump not to withdraw. Still, some experts doubt whether Congress could stand in Trump's way. "History suggests it would be very challenging for Congress to muster the will and the energy to forcefully counter that," said Holleyman.

Meanwhile, left-wing lawmakers such as Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders are pushing Trump to stick to his promise to deliver a better deal for workers.

A breakthrough next month may require a shift in the dynamic between the three nations. Mexico and Canada are reticent to put forward counter-proposals on what they see as provocative U.S. proposals. Meanwhile, U.S. negotiators are frustrated with the lack of back-and-forth exchanges on their core demands. At the last round, in Mexico City, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer made it clear the U.S. wants changes that will "rebalance" trade on the continent, and he urged Mexico and Canada to engage in a "serious way."

"The negotiating round in January will be the moment of truth," said Lori Wallach, director of the Global Trade Watch program at Public Citizen, a nonprofit group that says NAFTA has hurt workers.

Five crazy things that happened as the FCC voted to undo net neutrality rules

Brian Fung, Hamza Shaban
The Washington Post

Telecom policy fights rarely lead to much excitement. They usually involve lawyers tossing such provocative words at each other as "common carrier" and "business data services." But these days, if you so much as whisper the phrase "net neutrality," all sorts of crazy things begin to happen.

Don't believe us? Just take a survey of the past 48 hours.

The FCC got an anonymous bomb threat

Moments before members of the Federal Communications Commission voted to repeal its own net neutrality rules, security guards stormed the room where the meeting was taking place. Alluding cryptically to a security situation, the guards forced everyone out of the room — officials, activists and journalists.

The hallways outside the room quickly grew packed with confused people, and although the FCC didn't have any comment on the situation — many agency officials themselves looked bewildered — it soon became clear that security was taking the situation very seriously.

Later, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security said that around 12:35 p.m., officials had received an anonymous phone call saying two bombs had been planted at the agency — one in the meeting room and another elsewhere - that were primed to explode within half an hour. The call prompted the sudden evacuation and a sweep by bomb-sniffing dogs.

This isn't the first time security has become a story at the FCC. In one incident, a security guard made headlines when he allegedly roughed up a reporter for trying to ask a question. (FCC security on Thursday was more obliging, setting up a priority screening line for journalists looking to get into the meeting. The setup prompted the nerdier policy wonks in line to joke about FCC fast lanes, a nod to an earlier phase of the net neutrality fight.)

Hackers threatened FCC staff

In an email claiming to be from the hacking group Anonymous, hackers said they had obtained the personal information of many FCC staff, including all of the commissioners.

The authenticity of the email, which was sent to The Washington Post's secure dropbox and numerous other media outlets and agency officials, is unclear. But a Twitter account also claiming to be associated with the group had earlier tweeted that Anonymous would "make these men realize what a terrible mistake they made," threatening to "come after" FCC Chairman Ajit Pai and his allies.

The email included what the sender said was Pai's Social Security Number (partially redacted), home address and birth date. It alluded to the "darkest secrets" belonging to the other Republican FCC commissioners, Michael O'Rielly and Brendan Carr.

The same email also claimed that Anonymous had wired the FCC with explosives. It is unclear whether that threat was linked to the bomb scare DHS responded to. An FCC spokesman declined to comment on the email Thursday.

A congressman was clocked by a clock

As Recode's Tony Romm pointed out, the Washington Free Beacon posted footage Thursday of Democratic Rep. José Serrano of New York getting knocked offstage at a net neutrality rally by a giant prop clock. The words "Net Neutrality Wake Up Call" were written on the clock, which appeared to catch a gust of wind and toppled over.

Pai made a video for the Daily Caller

On the eve of the contentious vote to repeal net neutrality, the FCC chairman starred in an eccentric video published by the conservative news site the Daily Caller that featured him dressed as Santa Claus, wielding a lightsaber and clutching a fidget spinner to defend the repeal and mock the criticism against it. Some have described the video as cringe-worthy. Pai listed the "7 things you can still do on the Internet after net neutrality" and moved through each segment with props, costumes and memes. The last bit, "You can still ruin memes," was its own version of the viral Internet video meme "Harlem Shake." But the musician who created the song for "Harlem Shake" was not pleased.

In a tweet Thursday evening, Mad Decent, the record label behind "Harlem Shake," said that neither it nor the producer and DJ Harry Rodrigues gave permission to the Daily Caller to use the music and do not agree with Pai's video message. "We have issued a takedown (and) will pursue further legal action if it is not removed," the tweet said.

Rodrigues, who goes by the stage name Baauer, told Billboard on Thursday, "I support Net Neutrality like the vast majority of this country and am appalled to be associated with its repeal in any way."

While the video posted to YouTube appeared to have been taken down on Friday morning, it was back online later in the day. In a post on the Daily Caller website, publisher Neil Patel, said that Google "had censored the video based on a bogus claim from a politically motivated man." Google is YouTube's umbrella company, which is a subsidiary of Alphabet.

YouTube responded on Friday. "YouTube doesn't determine who owns the rights to what content. That is between the parties involved — the uploader, rights holders, and courts — to determine. We do provide tools to rights holders and uploaders to help them mediate copyright claims," a company spokeswoman said. "We act quickly to remove content when notified as is required of us by law and, when we see that there is a potential case for fair use, we ask the claimant to make sure they've conducted that analysis."

STATENEWSBRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

FALFURRIAS

44 immigrants found inside 2 refrigerated trailers

More than 40 immigrants smuggled inside two refrigerated truck trailers have been detained after the rigs were searched at a South Texas checkpoint.

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection statement says 19 immigrants were located early Friday at the Falfurrias checkpoint. Border Patrol agents, hours later at the same site, searched another trailer and found 25 more immigrants.

Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Robert Rodriguez on Saturday said both drivers were arrested.

Investigators are trying to determine if the smuggling attempts are related.

Temperatures in the trailers were about 45 degrees. Nobody required medical attention.

Rodriguez says the 44 people would be processed according to their immigration status. He declined to release further details on the immigrants from Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

ANGELTON

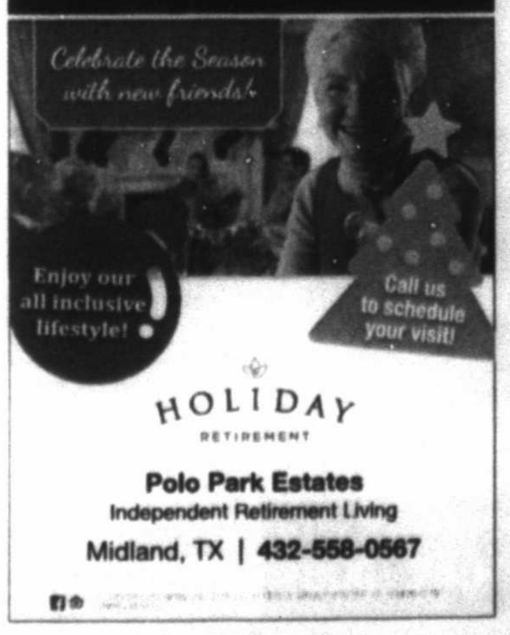
Alleged serial killer indicted in fourth death

An alleged serial killer has been indicted in the slaying of a North Texas college student nearly two decades after she went missing.

A Texas grand jury indicted William Lewis Reece late Thursday on a charge of capital murder in the 1997 disappearance and death of 20-year-old University of North Texas student Kelli Cox.

Reece was charged this summer in three other cold-case killings in Texas and Oklahoma. Cox, 19-year-old Tiffany Johnston, 17-year-old Jessica Cain and 12-year-old Laura Smither all disappeared over a four-month period in 1997.

Reece was serving a 60-year sentence in Texas for kidnapping when he led police last year to the graves where Cain and Cox's remains were buried.



Mark Lennihan/Associated Press

A UPS employee loads packages onto a truck at a company facility May 9 in New York. With Christmas on a Monday, most retailers have one less day to get packages delivered on time.

Factors put pressure on retailers to deliver

By Anne D'Innocenzio
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A calendar quirk this year and Amazon's seven-days-a-week delivery capability are building pressure on retailers to deliver.

With Christmas on a Monday, most retailers have one less day to get packages delivered on time. Some are pushing up their deadlines for standard delivery or free shipping. And after promoting the convenience of buying online with store pickup, retailers are also trying to satisfy lots of customers coming in to collect their orders.

It's especially important for retailers to hit the mark after some missteps earlier in the season, and because online leader Amazon has the advantage of delivering on Sundays. Research firm StellaService says Dec. 19 is the most popular cutoff date for retailers, two days earlier than last year. Amazon Prime members, meanwhile, get same-day delivery up until Dec. 24 in 8,000 cities.

Retailers have been trying to speed up delivery as they try to replicate the service offered by Amazon. But UPS said this month that some package deliveries were being delayed because of a surge of orders from online shoppers after Thanksgiving. And Walmart said around the same time that more online buying created delays in some orders.

Holiday spending is turning out to be stronger than expected, putting more pressure on stores to get it right.

"I am not very impressed," said Sheryl Matson of Mount Gilead, Ohio, who has run into problems twice already.

She ordered a PS4 game console on the Kohl's website two days before Thanksgiving, and the next morning received an email that her order was cancelled. She got on the phone to resolve the issue and got Kohl's Cash, similar to a gift card, for her troubles. A few days later, she ordered four items on the Kohl's website for in-store pickup at two places. At one location, one of the three items was missing; at the other store, the product — a digital coin collector — was the wrong color. She says she spent two hours on the phone and $20 in gas money to try to get it fixed. She had to keep the incorrect color, but did receive another $20 in Kohl's cash.

Now, she's buying the rest of her gifts at stores: "You see that the merchandise is actually there, instead of relying on their system."

Kohl's has actually carved out space for Amazon shops in some of its department stores, where shoppers can find Amazon devices and return items they bought from the online retailer.

Overall, retailers are wrapping their arms around e-commerce fulfillment but "are still struggling," said Alex Vlasto, vice president of marketing at StellaService.

The company found a marked decrease in how quickly retailers responded to queries from customers via chat message or phone during the first big shopping weekend of the season. For the 30 retailers it monitored from Thanksgiving to Cyber Monday, the average response time from a live customer service representative was more than three minutes, compared with less than two minutes a year ago. Responses via chat took nearly two minutes, compared with just over a minute a year ago.

Shoppers seem ready to spend. Government data shows U.S. consumers went on a shopping binge last month as the holiday season began, with big increases among online retailers, electronics stores and furniture stores.

Technology firm First Data says that retail spending, which excludes grocery stores, restaurants, auto parts merchants and gas stations, rose 5.4 percent for the period Nov. 1 through Dec. 11, compared to last year's growth of 2 percent. Adobe Analytics, the research arm of software maker Adobe, says online sales have soared nearly 15 percent this year, reaching $65.15 billion from Nov. 1 through Dec. 5.

Delivery has been one of the biggest battlegrounds as online shoppers seek speed and convenience.

Target said it is paying $550 million to buy Shipt, which charges members $99 a year and sends people out to choose and deliver groceries from stores, after earlier this year buying a delivery logistics company to offer same-day service to in-store shoppers in New York City.

Amazon has long invested in an infrastructure to do Sunday deliveries, relying on the U.S. Postal Service and its own network of local couriers. For Amazon's same-day deliveries for Prime members, it uses local couriers, the company said. Vlasto says the decision by most retailers not to do Sunday deliveries comes down to cost and the limits of their current logistics.

Many retailers are making more of their online items available for shoppers interested in picking them up at the store. Walmart says it expects demand for in-store pickup of online orders to double during the final two weeks of the holiday season.

Donald Morgan of Pittsgrove, New Jersey, doesn't plan to be among those customers. He's going to a mix of stores and using Amazon after having to wait 15 minutes in line to pick up online orders at Walmart, Target and Best Buy last holiday season.

"It's more aggravation than it's worth," Morgan says.

Workplace romance under spotlight after sex scandals

By Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The minefield that co-workers and companies navigate when it comes to love at work has gotten even more complex following the recent flood of sexual misconduct allegations roiling Hollywood, politics and the media.

Office relationships that might have flown under the radar — particularly those between boss and subordinate — are getting a new look. And even those who might be looking to ask a co-worker on a date are thinking twice.

"People need to think hard before they enter into a workplace romance," said Pennell Locey, a human resources expert at consulting firm Keystone Associates, who knows how complicated love can get in the workplace: She married a co-worker.

"One positive thing coming out of this is people are getting educated about what are the boundaries you should be conscious of," she added. "It kind of takes if off autopilot."

The office is one of the most popular places to find a lover. One out of four — 24 percent — of employees reported they have been or are currently involved in a workplace romance, according to a survey by the Society for Human Resource Management.

Increasingly organizations are implementing a written or verbal policy on workplace romance — 42 percent in 2013 versus 25 percent in 2005, according to the most recent data available from the society. Most rules outlaw relationships between bosses and subordinates or push for "love contracts," where workplace couples are required to disclose their relationships.

But some people ignore the rules.

"You can have a handbook and a policy and they'll ignore everything in there, including the CEO on down," said Joanne P. Lee, a vice president at N.K.S. Distributors in New Castle, Delaware, and who has worked in human resources for 35 years. "Sometimes they think, 'Oh, this doesn't pertain to me.' And I think that's what got everyone in trouble."

Workplace romances have long played a part in pop culture, whether in the films "Broadcast News," "Working Girl," "Anchorman" and "Love Actually," or on TV shows like "Mad Men," "Cheers," "The Office," and "Moonlighting." One top song this holiday season is Garth Brooks' "Ugly Christmas Sweater" with a line about "that pretty little girl from accounting."

In the real world, workplace relationships have been for better, and worse. Bill Gates met his wife Melinda at the office. Former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick landed in prison because he lied under oath about his extramarital affair with a staffer.

The propriety of consensual work relationships is getting renewed attention last week, after PBS announced it was suspending TV host Tavis Smiley following an independent investigation by a law firm, which uncovered "multiple, credible allegations of conduct that is inconsistent with the values and standards of PBS." His show's page at PBS was scrubbed on Thursday. Smiley responded to the allegations on Facebook, saying PBS "overreacted" and calling it "a rush to judgment."

"If having a consensual relationship with a colleague years ago is the stuff that leads to this kind of public humiliation and personal destruction, heaven help us," he said. "This has gone too far. And, I, for one, intend to fight back."

Office relationships may grow more secretive if there is a knee-jerk reaction to try to outlaw all office romance, said Amy Nicole Baker, a psychology professor at the University of New Haven who has studied the topic.

"We know from at least my work and some other peoples' work that if you try to stamp out consensual attraction in the workplace, you just drive it underground," she said.

The experts say workplace romances — always fraught, risky propositions — have only gotten more anguished following the uncovering of abuses at offices nationwide. "Saturday Night Live" recently featured a skit with an overwhelmed HR manager reminding everyone of the rules.

Joshua Lybolt can understand why companies are responding aggressively to new allegations, but he also understands workplace relations: He founded Lifstyl Real Estate in Crown Point, Indiana, with his wife, Magdalena, the same year they were married.

"From an employer standpoint, I think they're probably taking it too far, but I understand that from a risk-management issue, they want to mitigate conflict as much as possible," he said.

He said it's just good policy to keep relationship issues out of the workplace. His company, which employs another married couple, has avoided problems, but "we all know how relationships can turn." Just to be safe in his own marriage, he and his wife eventually started working from different offices.

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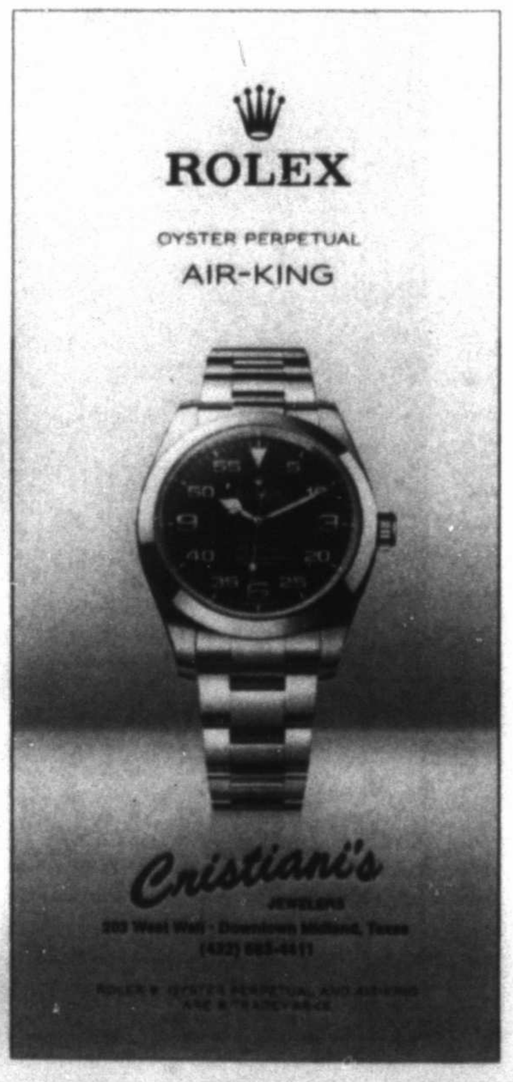

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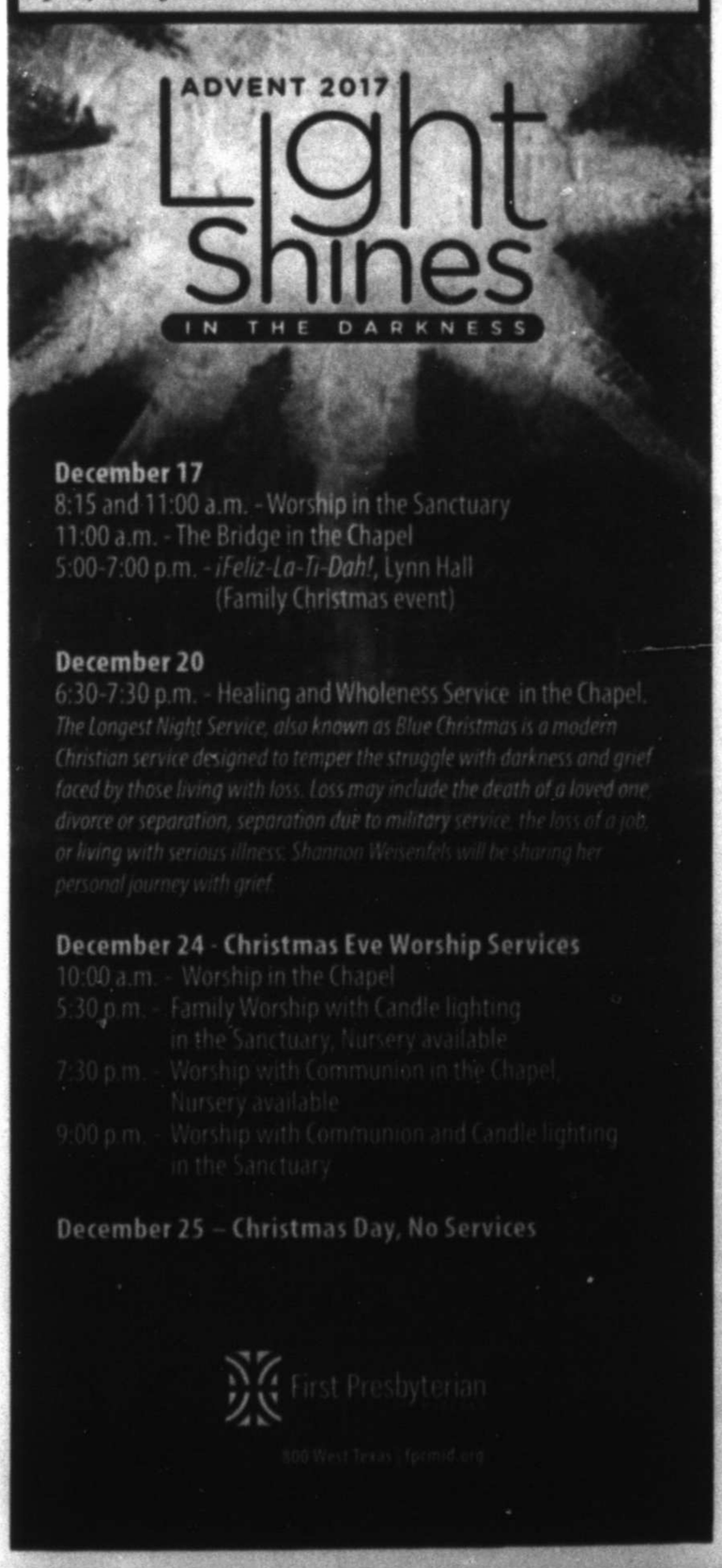

December 17
8:15 and 11:00 a.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. - The Bridge in the Chapel
5:00-7:00 p.m. - *¡Feliz-La-Ti-Dah!*, Lynn Hall (Family Christmas event)

December 20
6:30-7:30 p.m. - Healing and Wholeness Service in the Chapel.
The Longest Night Service, also known as Blue Christmas is a modern Christian service designed to temper the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss. Loss may include the death of a loved one, divorce or separation, separation due to military service, the loss of a job, or living with serious illness. Shannon Weisenfels will be sharing her personal journey with grief.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship Services
10:00 a.m. - Worship in the Chapel
5:30 p.m. - Family Worship with Candle lighting in the Sanctuary, Nursery available
7:30 p.m. - Worship with Communion in the Chapel, Nursery available
9:00 p.m. - Worship with Communion and Candle lighting in the Sanctuary

December 25 – Christmas Day, No Services

First Presbyterian
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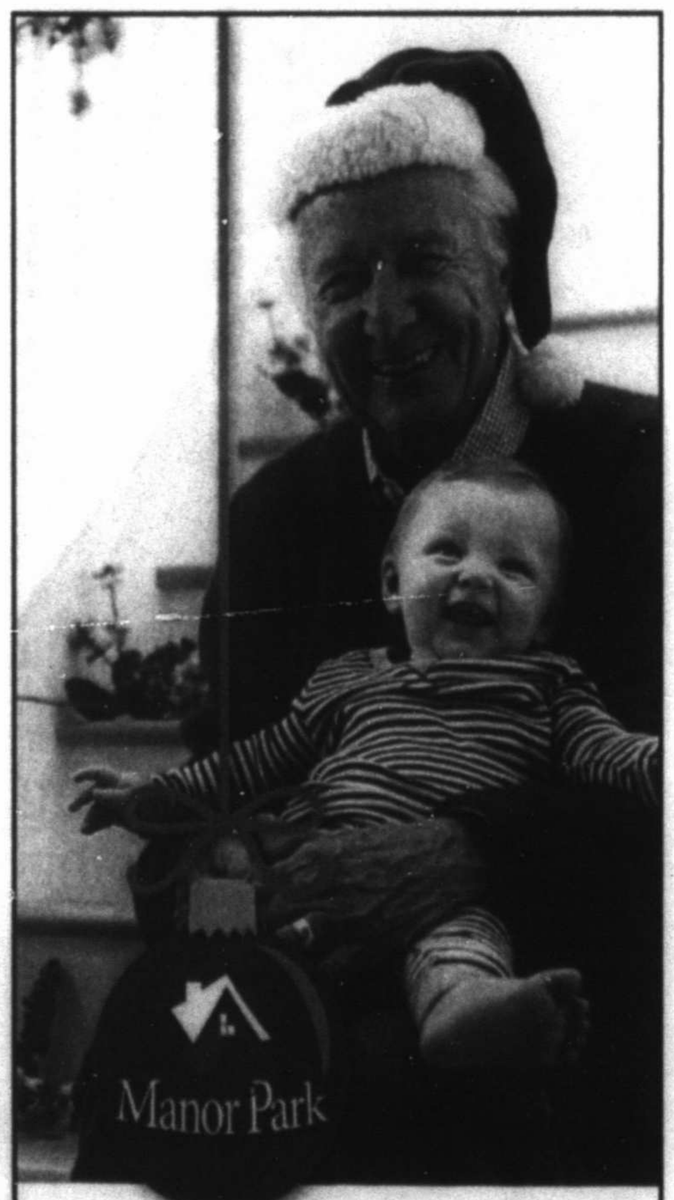

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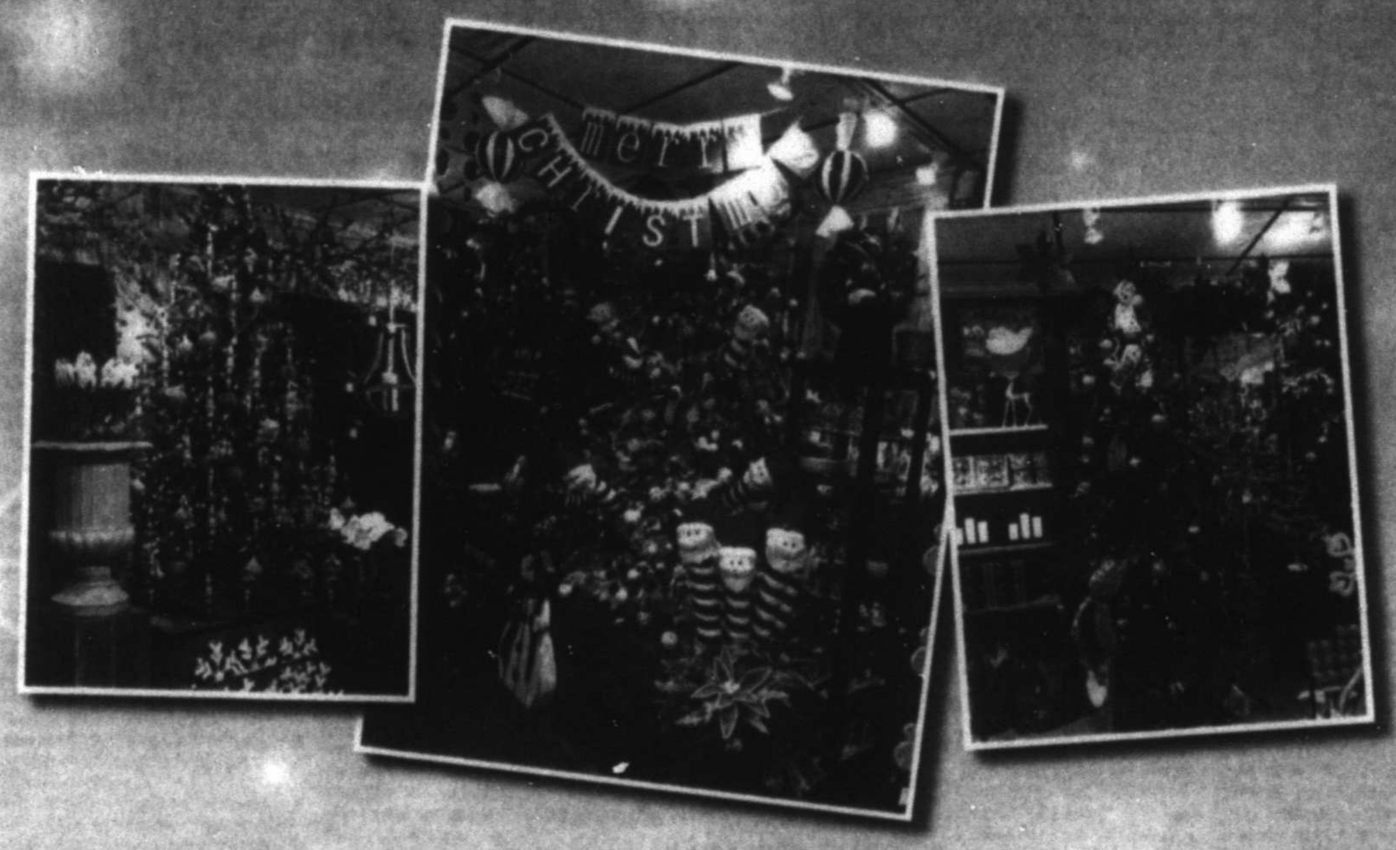

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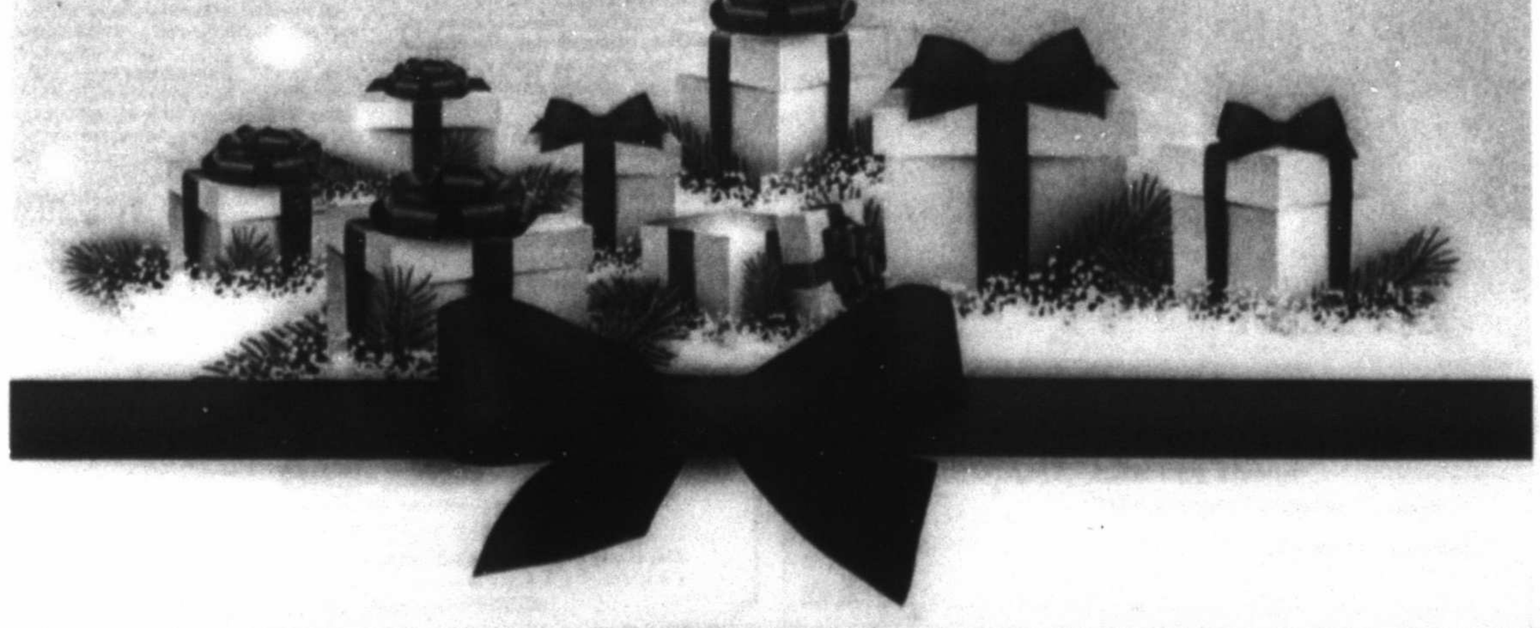

Poll: Most say Trump crossed line with Russia contacts

By Chad Day and Emily Swanson
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Most Americans think Donald Trump did something illegal or at least unethical regarding ties between his presidential campaign and Russia — and they think he's trying to obstruct the investigation looking into those possible connections.

The deeply divided country is more concerned about health care and the economy than any collusion with the Kremlin, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. But the survey also shows that Americans are unhappy with the way Trump is dealing with the investigations led by Congress and special counsel Robert Mueller.

Most people believe Trump is trying to obstruct the investigations, which have produced charges against four of his campaign advisers and increasingly appear focused on the president's inner circle.

Four in 10 Americans think the president has done something illegal when it comes to Russia, while an additional 3 in 10 say he's at least done something unethical. And 68 percent disapprove of his response to the investigations.

There are significant partisan divisions, with Democrats far more likely than Republicans to be concerned about Trump's actions or to feel invested in what the probes uncover.

Debra Nanez in Arizona said that she believes Trump broke the law and has been lying to the American people.

"If you go back and do a rewind, you say, 'Yep, he's guilty.' He's lied so badly to us from the beginning until now. He was involved in it. He knew what was going on," said Nanez, 65, who doesn't affiliate with a political party.

But Mary Ruth Stephenson, 83, of Kentucky says she's not yet sure whether Trump has broken the law.

"Unethical, yes. I mean the whole picture of that man is unethical. Illegal? I'll just have to hold that in abeyance until I find out more about what went down," said Stephenson, a registered Republican who says she's unhappy with the current GOP.

Overall, 62 percent of Democrats say they think Trump has done something illegal, while just 5 percent of Republicans think the same. Among Republicans, 33 percent think he's done something unethical, while 60 percent think he's done nothing wrong at all.

Both Nanez and Stephenson, like 63 percent of Americans, say Trump has tried to impede or obstruct the investigations into whether his campaign had Russian ties. According to the survey, 86 percent of Democrats, 67 percent of independents and 24 percent of Republicans agree.

Still, just short of half of Americans — 47 percent — say they're extremely or very concerned about whether Trump or others involved with his campaign had inappropriate contacts with the Russian government. Those results fall along party lines, too, and are largely unchanged since March.

"I feel like there are so many more important issues that we could be focusing on other than something that's basically water under the bridge," said Martina Childers, a 53-year-old Republican who lives in Colorado.

She said the economy, taxes, the military and small business concerns are more pressing issues. The Russia investigations? "I don't think that's so important. I just don't," she said.

Childers' views reflect the feelings of a majority of Americans. Just 4 in 10 call the Russia investigation very or extremely important to them. By contrast, immigration, taxes and health care are all considered much more important, according to the survey.

Melinda McLaughlin, who identifies as an independent and lives in Ohio, said she, too, believes tax reform and the economy are more important issues, but that doesn't mean she's not concerned about the Russia investigations.

"I do feel like there was either collusion or a connection there that affected the election, and I do not feel like the president is telling the truth about his involvement in it," said McLaughlin, who is 56.

She's withholding judgment on whether she'll trust the ultimate findings of Congress and Mueller.

In fact, at this point few Americans have high confidence in either Mueller or Congress to fairly investigate the issue.

Of the special counsel's investigation, just 26 percent say they're very or extremely confident that it will be fair and impartial, while an additional 31 percent are moderately confident. Opinions about the possibility of a fair and impartial congressional investigation are even lower, with just 13 percent saying they're very or extremely confident in that happening and 32 percent saying they're moderately confident.

In Colorado, Childers said she can't completely trust Mueller.

"I feel like there may be some ulterior motives there," she said, noting that Trump "ruffled a lot of feathers" when he took office.

But in rural Kentucky, Stephenson said she has high confidence in Mueller.

"I don't see how anybody could be unbiased, but if he doesn't show it in his investigation or his conclusions, that's integrity," she said of Mueller. "I have to go on what so many people have said: They believe in him. They trust him. They think he's honest."

Though, she couldn't say the same thing about Congress.

"What a bunch of crap," she said.

The AP-NORC poll surveyed 1,020 adults from Dec 7-11 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.3 percentage points.

Interviews were conducted online and using landlines and cellphones.

Residents flee as flames approach wealthy California enclave

By Robert Jablon and Chris Carlson
Associated Press

MONTECITO, Calif. — Residents piled into cars and fled on Saturday, turning downtown Santa Barbara into "a ghost town" as surging winds drove one of the biggest fires in California's history toward the city and the nearby wealthy enclave of Montecito.

The mandatory evacuations around Montecito and neighboring Summerland came as winds that had eased a day earlier roared back at around 30 mph, with gusts to about 60 mph. Firefighters stood by yellow fire trucks with hoses unspooled, ready to protect the historic San Ysidro Ranch as heavy smoke rose from the coastal hills, blotting out the blue skies.

A portion of Santa Barbara also was under mandatory evacuation. The city's zoo was under voluntary evacuation, and workers there began putting some animals into crates and kennels as a precaution.

In downtown Santa Barbara, Maya Schoop-Rutten, owner of Chocolate Maya, said she saw through the window of her chocolate shop smoke suddenly appear after strong winds blew through.

"It was absolutely incredible," she said. "There was a huge mushroom of smoke that happened in just a matter of a few minutes."

Restaurants and small stores on normally bustling State Street were shuttered, as they have been on and off for more than 10 days as the varying winds pushed the flames and smoke back and forth.

"It's a ghost town. Everything is shut down," Schoop-Rutten said. "It's very, very eerie."

The northbound lanes of U.S. Highway 101, coming up the coast from Los Angeles, were closed for a few hours south of Santa Barbara, with cars stopped on the freeway.

The 404-square-mile Thomas Fire was moving rapidly westward and crested Montecito Peak, just north of Montecito. Known for its star power, the enclave boasts the mansions of Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres and many other celebrities.

"It is right above the homes," fire spokesman Jude Olivas said.

Winfrey expressed her dismay on her Twitter account.

"Still praying for our little town. Winds picked up this morning creating a perfect storm of bad for firefighters," Winfrey tweeted. It was not clear if the former talk show host was in Montecito.

Pierre Henry, owner of the Bree'osh Bakery in Montecito, said he got a text to evacuate Saturday morning as the fire approached homes. He estimated the fire was about a mile away.

"The worst was the smoke," Henry said. "You couldn't breathe at all and it became worse when the wind started. All the ashes and the dust on the street were in the air. It was very, very frightening."

The city, according to Henry, became devoid of people except for firefighters and as many as 50 firefighter trucks.

"We left everything," Henry said. "There is nobody in Montecito. Just firefighters."

The morning passed with no homes damaged or destroyed as firefighters dealt with "extreme and erratic" fire behavior, Olivas said.

Schoop-Rutten said the fire is taking an economic toll, even if it doesn't invade the city.

"It's tragic for businesses at this time of the year because this is when we make the money," she said. "Imagine all the restaurants, all the Christmas parties have been cancelled. People lost a ton of revenue in the past few days."

There was a spot of good news down the coast. Emergency officials announced that the same fire that was burning about 25 miles southeast of Montecito was 40 percent contained. Evacuation orders for the city of Ventura were lifted.

As the northerly "sundowner" wind was driving the fire south and west, firefighters were left to hope for them to calm back down.

"When the sundowners surface in that area and the fire starts running down slopes, you are not going to stop it," Mark Brown, of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, told a news conference. "And we are not going to stand in front of it and put firefighters in untenable situations."

For the 13th straight day, the National Weather Service issued a red flag warning of extreme fire danger because of hot, dry, windy conditions.

The fire is now the third-largest in California history. It has burned more than 700 homes and killed a state firefighter.

Cory Iverson, 32, died Thursday from burns and smoke inhalation, according to autopsy results announced Saturday by the Ventura County medical examiner's office. Details of his death were not released.

Since the fire began on Dec. 4, about 95,000 people have been placed under mandatory evacuation. The evacuation zone near Santa Barbara on Saturday was 17 miles long and up to 5 miles wide and the new expansion encompassed about 3,300 people.

The Santa Barbara Zoo, which is near the mandatory evacuation zone, announced it was putting some animals in crates to prepare for possible evacuation. The zoo has about 150 species of animals, including a pair of Amur leopards, a critically endangered species. Workers began putting vultures, California condors and some smaller animals into crates and kennels in case the fire approached.

"Everything is fine right now. The wind has shifted in our favor," spokesman Dean Noble said. "However, we just don't want to get caught by something unexpected."

Other zoos are ready to accept the evacuated animals, he said. The Fresno zoo has an incubator available for a baby giant anteater, and the San Diego zoo is prepared to accept the Amur leopards and other cats, Noble said.

Everything about the fire has been massive, from the sheer scale of destruction that cremated entire neighborhoods to the legions attacking it: about 8,300 firefighters from nearly a dozen states, aided by 78 bulldozers and 29 helicopters.

The cause remains under investigation. So far, firefighting costs have surpassed $100 million.

Hannah Hunsinger/Rapid City Journal

A firefighter walks by flames of the burn out fire that was set while battling a blaze Tuesday in Custer State Park in South Dakota.

9 burros beloved by visitors burned in Custer park wildfire

By Amy Forliti
Associated Press

Nine burros that are a favorite of visitors to South Dakota's Custer State Park have been burned in a wildfire and it's not known if all of them will survive, a park official said Saturday.

The park reported Saturday morning that all nine burros had been found — a day after three of them were reported missing and feared dead in the wildfire that has consumed more than 84 square miles. But all nine were burned and are being treated by a veterinarian. Some were not injured as badly as others, but their chances of survival and the severity of their injuries might not be known for some time, said park visitor services program manager Kobee Stalder.

"It's a very sensitive situation at the moment," Stalder said. "We're treating them and we are trying to do everything we can to help them, and it's kind of a waiting game."

Stadler said the burros are getting antibiotics and pain medication, as well as food and water.

The burro herd was affected by the fire more than any other herd in the park. By Friday, the majority of the park's popular bison herd, which numbers about 860, had been located and appeared to be doing fine. The majority of elk herds were also found and pronghorn antelope are now starting to come out of the woods and have been seen grazing, Stadler said.

He said that for the wildlife, "their animal instincts kick in and they know to evade the danger area." Still, the full effects of the fire might not be known for weeks.

"Obviously we'll still be assessing all of our herds over time," Stadler said. "But at first glance, we are very fortunate. ... Some animals have some minor burns and things like that, but overall health is good."

The park is just south of Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the state's southwest. It's a top tourist destination, featuring hills with ponderosa pine and prairie. Visitors often drive through to see the roaming bison, also known as buffalo, and other wildlife.

Since the fire started Monday from a downed power line, park fans have been going to social media to get updates on the fire and ask about wildlife. Many people posted messages of concern about the missing burros, which Stadler called a visitor favorite.

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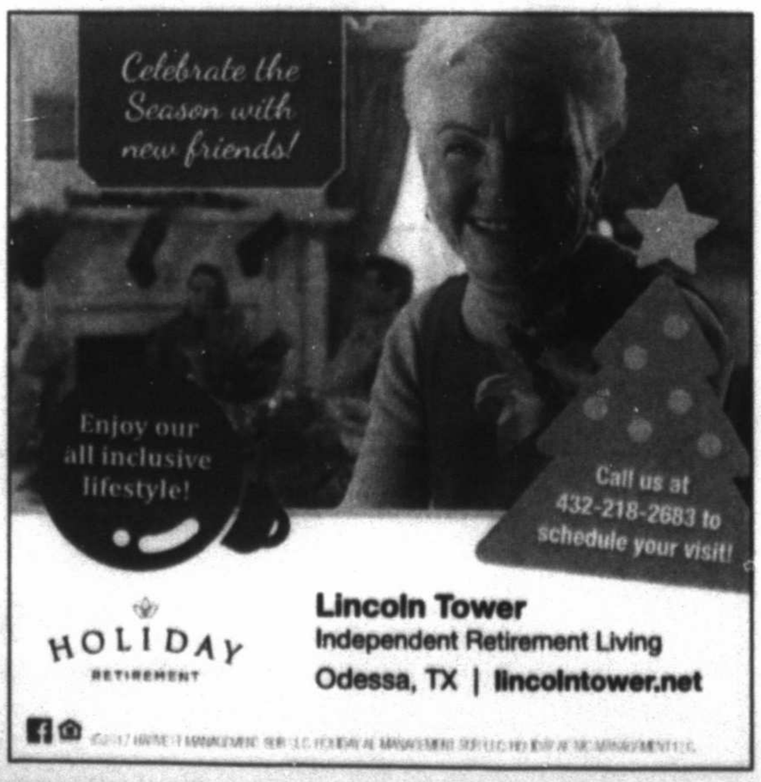

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

8		2	9					
		9						1
	7				4	2		
	5	7						
	4		1		8		7	2
						4	3	
		4	7				6	
7						9		
				1	3	5		

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

1	9	6	2	3	5	8	7	4
5	7	8	6	9	4	3	2	1
4	2	3	7	1	8	9	6	5
9	4	7	3	6	1	5	8	2
8	5	1	4	2	9	6	3	7
6	3	2	5	8	7	1	4	9
2	1	9	8	7	6	4	5	3
7	8	4	9	5	3	2	1	6
3	6	5	1	4	2	7	9	8

12/17/17

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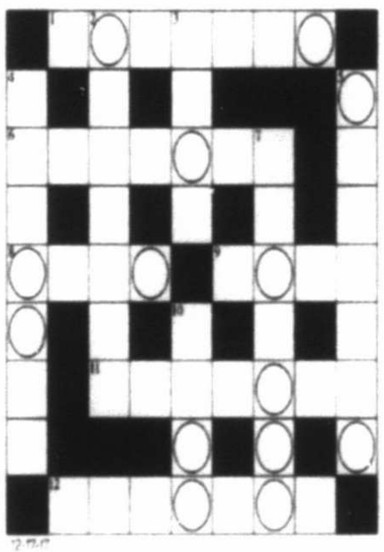
JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt

Sunday Puzzle



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Dwarf ___	APSELTN
6. Most heartfelt	RAWSEMT
8. Small songbird	RWNE
9. Track ___	EMTE
11. Gridiron figure	DRGEAAY
12. Recipe	MARLOUF

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
2. Theft	YRNECAL
3. Require	ENDE
4. Clumsy	DAWKWAR
5. Falter, stammer	TUPREST
7. ___ clippers	LINEOTA
10. Cut	RITM

How to play

Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

BONUS

CLUE: _____ was the highest-paid female athlete in 2016

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these six Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

GOONLB

CNACTE

ROMEAL

LEEUFY

WLIESV

TONKYT

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Check out the new, free JUMBLE app

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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JUMBLE

Answer : OBLONG MORALE SWIVEL ACCENT EYEFUL KNOTTY

When the baby's first words were "da-da... da-da," the father exclaimed —

NOW YOU'RE TALKIN'!

DECEMBER 17, 2017

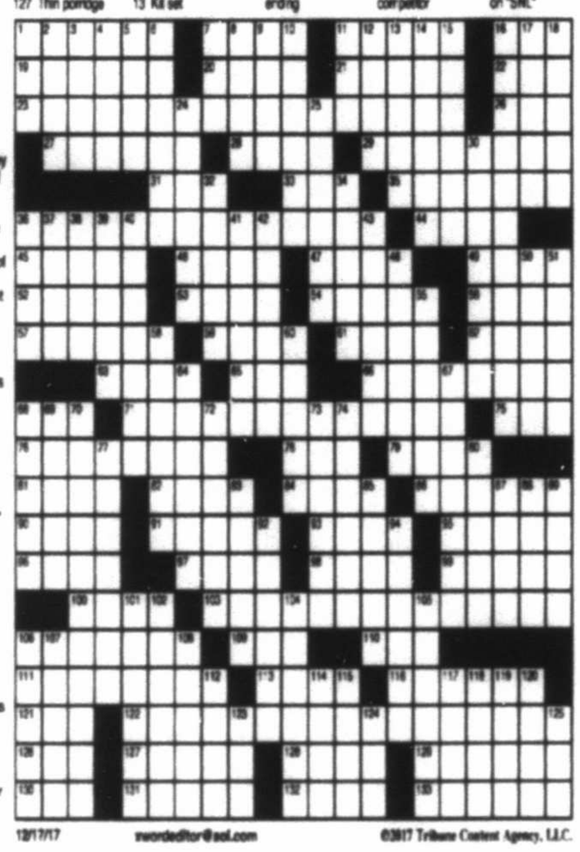
Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

"TWO FOR ONE"
By JIM HOLLAND

ACROSS
1 "Don't panic"
7 Lincoln who was the first screen actor Tarzan
11 Adlai's 1956 running mate
16 Japanese theater form
19 Astronomy Muse
20 "King ___"
21 Lacking company
22 "What have we here?!"
23 Athlete Jackson discusses immunization options?
26 Put an end to
27 Bit of porch furniture, perhaps
28 Beauty pageant sand
29 Cruise purpose
31 Seville : Sta. :: Seattle : ___
33 Wee amount
35 Quick, as service
36 Spring spelling event could face cancellation?
44 ___ Sea
45 Rotting results
46 General Bradley
47 Writer Bagnold
49 Places with courts
52 NBA nickname since the '70s
53 Actress Gaye of "All"
54 Former Renault
56 "Could be trouble"
57 Forgers of a sort
59 Roof rack items
61 Basic French infinitive
62 Greiner of "Shark Tank"
63 Brief moments
65 Denver-to-Omaha dir.
66 What "it takes," at the start of many macho mantras
68 Nile biter
71 Seaman's complete canvas expense?
75 Tarzan player Ron
76 How rural areas are populated
78 "More than I wanted to know"
79 Garden invader
81 Actor Diggs
82 Rover's turf
84 Chooses
86 Checked (out)
90 Dadaist collection
91 Clapton et al.
93 Offer of help
95 Rodeo accessory
96 Borscht veggie
97 Phobia beginning
99 Islamic brand
99 Bean in Hollywood
100 "Friends" friend
103 "2 + 2 = 5" problem?
106 Draw
109 CEO's credentials
110 LAX inspection org.
111 Like serious errors
113 Pizazz
116 Slowly
121 Tease
122 Writer anticipates a vacation?
126 Key for Debussy?
127 Thin porridge
128 Approval indicator
129 Aerial mission
130 Two above an eagle
131 Lamb piece
132 Spot
133 Fighting ender

DOWN
1 Psi
2 Cupid, to Plato
3 Actress Blanchett
4 Med school subj.
5 Easy rhythm
6 Arms-folded response
7 Brother of Peyton
8 Camera component
9 Subject of clothed and nude Goya portraits
10 Handel opera written in Italian
11 Absorb, as a loss
12 Unintended revelation
13 Kit set
14 Set of nine
15 Bun choice
16 Situation when a frat room is empty?
17 Tara surname
18 Darling
24 Weekly inspiration for many
25 No. 5 maker
30 Shore squawker
32 Island birthplace of Pythagoras
34 Gift recipient
36 Grandmas, earlier
37 Podcaster Camila
38 "Pic-a-nic" basket-seeking bear, familiarly
39 The Beatles, e.g.
40 Avoids like the plague
41 Pinstripes wearer
42 Smarts
43 Certs competitor
48 1925 Bryan foe
50 Aesopian ending
51 Reflective
55 Big name in candy
58 Plot
60 Defense gp. dissolved in 1977
64 Toyota Camry model
67 Was horrified
68 Take ___ at
69 Success on the second roll
70 Average salary on a Detroit team?
72 Ira Gershwin's forte
73 Mischievous
74 Chinese evergreen
77 Bring back to a former state
80 Anthony ___ Pulitzer winner for "All the Light We Cannot See"
83 Rugby action
85 Leslie Charteris hero, with "The"
87 El ___, Texas
88 Harrow competitor
89 Mild oath
92 Gloomy
94 Bugs
101 Brutal
102 Searches all over
104 "Unto the Sons" memoirist
105 Word derived from a marquis
108 "Get ___!"
"Control yourself!"
107 Refrain syllables
108 Ballet outfits
112 Where the Mets played
114 Motion passers
115 Tide type
117 2-Down, to Cato
118 "Chicago" star
119 Meager amount
120 "What ___?"
123 Beer originally brewed near a Northwest capital, briefly
124 Fuzzy
125 Poehler "Weekend Update" co-host on "SNL"



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WUZZLES

WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD TOM

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1.

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2.

NASH holiday

3. The Weekly "Brain Breaker"

CX EMERGE IT

Print Your Answers Here:

1.

2.

3.

Today's Answers are on Page 00

Created by Tom Underwood www.wuzzleblog.com

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12-17

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

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I	L	E		G	R	U	E	L		S	E	A	L	
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WUZZLES® 1. Putting on socks and underwear 2. National holiday 3. Emergency exit Answers 12-17

There's a little bit of everything in

Education

Look for it in Tuesday's edition of the Reporter-Telegram

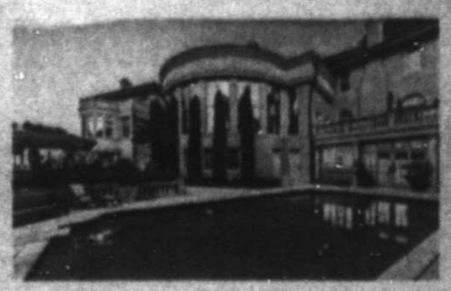
Merry Christmas FROM FORT WORTH

Hers

The Baldridge House

Once upon a lifetime...
...comes an opportunity to own and enjoy one of Fort Worth's most recognizable and esteemed estates. Designed and built in the early 1900's by noted architects Sanguinet and Staats, this 14,000+ square foot mansion on 1.5 acres rightfully earned its place on the Texas Historical record in 1978. As the home to two former mayors of Fort Worth, notable oil barons, socialites and other key historical figures, this residence exudes what is 'Fort Worth' and carries on a tradition of excellence with its hearty elegance and grace.

Preserving the architectural integrity of this historic home and its grounds was a priority for the current owners who completed and exhaustive two-year renovation, carefully incorporating an artful balance of historic elegance and modern comfort. The two-story entry veranda is adorned with massive limestone columns, cast stone balustrades and intricate stonework. Inside, the stunning grand foyer is an architectural feat of excellence with marble floors, wainscoting, coffered ceilings, elliptical arches and dramatic chandeliers.



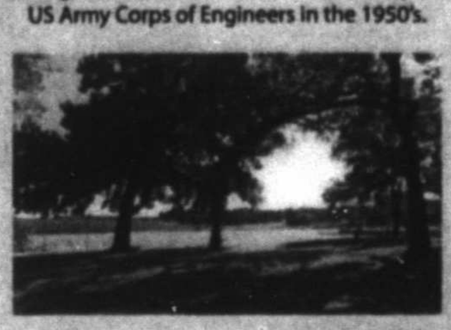
With guest quarters, steam showers, Universal Systems media throughout and room for eleven cars this home is truly historic magnificence in a modern world. Thoughtfully asking $7,950,000.

www.baldridge.isforsale.com

His

MISTLETOE LAKE RANCH

Only minutes from downtown Fort Worth sits these unique +/-679 acres of beautifully diverse ranchland. Smack-dab in the middle of the property is your own private, and stocked +/-40 acre lake. These waters have been carefully managed since construction of the lake by the US Army Corps of Engineers in the 1950's.



One side of the lake is improved into a parklike setting with picnic area and tables, his and her bathroom facilities and a concrete boat launch set under enormous oak and pecan trees and lush Saint Augustine grass. The other side of the lake remains in its natural state with wooded vegetation providing cover and habitat for wildlife including dove, ducks, whitetail deer and endless songbirds and shorebirds

Ranching and cattle operations are still a part of North Texas culture and this property is equipped for that with Foreman's quarters, several sheds, stock tanks and ponds, working-pens and intelligent cross fencing. This property is truly a very special place and a rare find so close to town. Priced at $22,000 per acre.

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Time for GOP to take a stand against Bannon

JAY CARUSO
The Dallas Morning News

The last time Alabama elected a Democrat before Doug Jones was Richard Shelby in 1986. Less than a decade later, he switched to the Republican Party after the GOP captured control of Congress for the first time in 40 years.

Doug Jones' defeat of Roy Moore in Alabama doesn't mean much for the national GOP in the 2018 elections. It was not a bellwether election. That said, Republicans have to offer better candidates, or they'll continue to lose elections they should win.

The GOP must take a firm stand against Steve Bannon. The man has no intention of building a winning coalition. He's all about offering up toxic candidates that might win primaries with a plurality of votes but lose in the general election. Alabama was the first test for Bannon, and he failed.

For his part, Bannon doesn't care. He sees it as a win no matter what. Charles Cooke of National Review tweeted, "Bannon's is a non-falsifiable theory. If he wins, he's right. If he loses, he's right. If his guy prevails, his finger was on the pulse; if his guy goes down, he was sabotaged."

In the wake of Moore's loss, Trump's base supporters (who are also Bannon supporters) were blaming Mitch McConnell, #Never-Trump and Shelby, who refused to support Moore. Hardcore Trump supporters like Dinesh D'Souza started floating unsubstantiated conspiracy theories about tampered votes. Everybody received blame except Moore.

None of them bothered to ponder the possibility that Moore lost because of credible accusations made against him that include the sexual assault of a 14-year-old girl when Moore was 32 years old.

Bannon now moves on to Arizona where he will try to get Kelli Ward elected to what will be an open Senate seat due to Sen. Jeff Flake's retirement at the end of his current term. This is hardly confidence-inspiring.

Ward last ran and lost to Sen. John McCain in a 2016 primary race. Ward said John McCain was "directly responsible for the rise of ISIS." In another moment of absurdity, Ward called on McCain to resign immediately after his cancer diagnosis, angling for Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey to appoint her as a replacement.

Please see CARUSO/2B

WANTED: SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE

AP file photo

House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis. administers the House oath of office to Rep. Blake Farenthold during a mock swearing in ceremony Jan. 3 on Capitol Hill in Washington. The House Ethics Committee said Dec. 7 it is expanding its investigation into sexual harassment allegations against Farenthold. The committee said it will investigate whether Farenthold sexually harassed a former member of his staff and retaliated against her for complaining. The committee also said the panel would review allegations that Farenthold made inappropriate statements to other members of his official staff.

Why Blake Farenthold should step down now

KEN HERMAN
Austin American-Statesman

A bit late, U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold, R-Corpus Christi, told us Thursday he didn't know how to run a congressional office when he won the job in 2010. It's kind of too bad he didn't tell us that back then or during his latter three successful races for the office.

The overdue admission came as he announced he's changed his mind and will not seek a fifth term.

Good call, Farenthold. Not a close call, but a good call nonetheless, particularly because he also told us he's still working toward the proper running of a congressional office.

Blame-throw though he might ("I wanted the opportunity to explain myself and the broken system in Washington that in many ways has left me in the position I'm in."), Farenthold is a victim of two things: his own unacceptable, beyond-boorish behavior and the solid journalism that disclosed it.

Thank you, journalism.

Three days after the filing period ended for the 2018 elections, Farenthold, in a video posted on Facebook, apologized for running a taxpayer-funded workplace he said included "destructive gossip, offhand comments, off-color jokes and behavior that in general was less than professional. I'll let you read the tawdry details elsewhere.

Farenthold continued to deny the sexual harassment allegations of a former female aide who got a taxpayer-funded $84,000 settlement that he now says he will repay to the government.

That denial aside, Farenthold's Thursday statement was an attempted apology. He earned points for the attempt.

Rookie mistakes, he said.

"I'd never served in public office before," he reminded us. "I had no idea how to run a congressional office. And as a result, I allowed a workplace culture to take root in my office that was too permissive and decidedly unprofessional.

"It accommodated destructive gossip, off-hand comments, off-color jokes and behavior that, in general, was less than professional. And I allowed the personal stress of the job to manifest itself in angry outbursts and, too often, a failure to treat people with respect that they deserved. That was wrong. Clearly, it's not how I was raised; it's not who I am, and for that situation, I am profoundly sorry. An unprofessional work environment is not a crime, but it's embarrassing to me and to my family."

But don't worry, he's still working on it: "I'm resolved over the coming days and weeks and months to institute meaningful changes in my official office. I owe that to everyone, my constituents, my family and this institution."

I've got to think it also would have been helpful if Farenthold had told voters back in 2010 that he had no idea how to run a congressional office.

As a voter, I'd take something like that into consideration. We are blessed that other congressional newbies figure out how to run their offices without going what we'll now call "Farenthold."

You've got to wonder what in his pre-Congress life told him that how he wound up running the office would be a good way to do it.

He's a lawyer, and he's been a radio host and founded a computer consulting/web design firm.

I've never worked in those kinds of offices so I don't know what goes on there.

But I bet there are folks who have worked in those kinds of offices who somehow would have figured out how to run a congressional office with respect and professionalism.

Farewell, Farenthold, and the sooner the better. The people of his district deserve better sooner.

I appreciate that he's still working on how to run his office, but he's had enough time.

Farenthold should quit now and clear the way for a special election to replace him long before his current term ends in January 2019.

Here's the takeaway for all of us. In addition to asking congressional candidates for their positions on foreign policy, taxes, health care and the other pressing issues of our time, we should ask this:

Do you have any basic understanding of how to treat your fellow humans, perhaps especially the ones who work with and for you?

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

MICHAEL A. LINDENBERGER
The Dallas Morning News

Here's how Doug Jones' win can push the Senate to the middle

Doug Jones' election to the Senate means that if Mitch McConnell and John Cornyn lose even a single Republican vote on any issue before the chamber, they'll need to go running for help from the vice president. Lose two members, and welcome to the Republican Nightmare on Main Street.

That prospect has Democrats flexing their muscles and resisters everywhere walking tall. But let me suggest another path forward, one that could steer the Senate, and with it the nation, away from the death-cater partisanship that everyone says they hate and everyone admits has taken over the Capitol.

What if three Republicans announced they are so sick of the whole game as it's now played they would no longer vote along party lines? Instead, they'd examine every major piece of legislation on its merits, no matter who authors it.

Imagine the power these three Republicans would have if they were to announce that they'd support any immigration bill that protects the Dreamers, toughens enforcement of our existing laws, and creates a fair path forward for the millions of other immigrants here illegally. This is what the majority of Americans want, and what the Republican Party would want to, if it weren't beholden to the loudest, most partisan voices within its ranks.

Or if these senators said they'd support any amendments to the tax reform bills that make the tax code simpler or that steer more of the benefits to the middle-class, instead of to the rich who will benefit most under the current bills?

Or, closer to home, imagine if Sen. John Cornyn were to say he'd vote for the bipartisan criminal justice reform he's been pushing, even if other Republicans won't.

That bill has been blocked in the past by hard-line conservatives. Then-Sen. Jeff Sessions was one, and Sens. Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz were others, busy as they were with their presidential aspirations.

They worried the bill would let some people in prison off too easy. Cornyn knows that's not true, and the bill, already chock full of bipartisan compromise, had Democratic support lined up. What if he were to say, to heck with Cruz and the rest, and add his votes to the Dems'? The bill would pass with just two more defectors.

Imagine all this and what we'd get is legislation. And policy solutions that have already been tried and tested in many states, including Texas.

This all may sound like fantasy. But Doug Jones' election to the Senate means it doesn't have to remain a dream. Jones

Please see LINDENBERGER/2B

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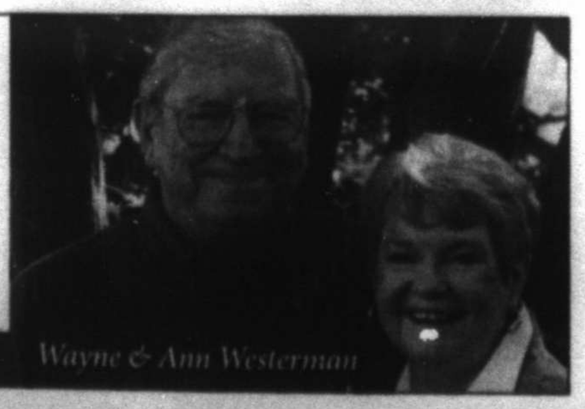

Wayne & Ann Westerman

The Laredo Morning Times, Ricardo Santos

The first commercial truck from Mexico that traveled to Garland, from Apocada, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, crosses the World Trade Bridge on Oct. 21, 2011 from Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico into Laredo.

Law aimed at trucker fatigue needs to go into effect as planned

■ Some independent truckers oppose requirement to install electronic logging devices

By Chris Tomlinson
Houston Chronicle

■ COMMENTARY

In an era when slashing regulations is celebrated, there is a new one coming into effect that we need to defend.

For years, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, which I imagine most readers have never heard of, has limited truckers to driving no more than 11 hours, or working anything more than a 14-hour day, without a 10-hour break. These limits have dramatically reduced the number of big rig accidents due to driver fatigue.

For you and me, that means a lower chance of an 80,000-pound truck smashing into our cars at 70 mph.

Enforcing this law, though, has never been easy. Since the 1930s, truckers have kept paper logs that regulators can inspect to make sure no one is cheating. But by some estimates, 15 percent to 20 percent of drivers fudge their logs to squeeze out extra hours and make extra money.

In the 2017 fiscal year, state law enforcement officers put 30,274 truck drivers out of service for falsifying their logs, the highest number yet, the safety administration reported. And those are only the ones who got caught.

Increasingly, truckers are under pressure to make more runs and deliver cargoes faster than ever. Any regulation of trucking, therefore, has far-reaching consequences.

To address cheating, Congress voted four years ago to require truckers to connect electronic logging devices, or ELDs, to vehicle engines. The administration published the regulation two years ago and gave truckers until Dec. 18 of this year to install the device, which is essentially a modified GPS system.

The American Trucking Association and major trucking companies embraced the requirement, recognizing how the rule would improve safety and reduce potential liabilities. But independent truckers, who own their own rigs, are calling the requirement an oppressive regulation imposed by Big Brother.

Demonstrations began springing up across the country earlier this year using the Twitter hashtag, #ELDorMe. Opponents complain that buying the equipment is expensive, though they cost $495 on average. They say paper logs never fail, even though some drivers routinely cheat.

The truckers' tweets got President Donald Trump's attention in May, and he replied: "ELD's are very unfair. Truckers voted for me, so mark my words. I will end the ELD mandate."

Seven months later, though, the regulations are still on track. So independent truckers launched protests nationwide on Monday, tweeting demands that Trump keep his word.

"Hey MR president @ realDonaldTrump listen to the truck drivers the small guys like you said when you were elected," Florida driver Leo Hernandez tweeted Monday. "This ELD mandate will put me out of business #ELDORME."

Drivers are undoubtedly under pressure, with shippers desperate to keep costs down and truckers wasting far too much time waiting for loading or unloading at distribution centers. Drivers are not paid by the hour. They are paid to deliver loads on time, so they hate the idea of a computer minder forcing them to pull over for 10 hours in the middle of a run.

Lifting the mandate, though, would be a big mistake. That's because if we're being honest, the only reason to resist installing an ELD is to keep cheating.

As safety expert Brian Fielkow, owner of Houston-based Jetco Delivery, explained to me, drivers who violate the time-in-service rule hurt those who follow it, such as Jetco, which installed ELDs in 2008. Uniform enforcement would also force shippers to acknowledge the federal rules and pay truckers better because they cannot cheat anymore.

"We'll all be playing by the same set of rules," he said. "It ensures the drivers that nobody's going to push them beyond the legal hours. It has a great benefit for trucking companies, because I can see where the trucks are in real time."

The devices also cut back on paperwork because drivers don't need to maintain paper logs. Trucking companies don't have to calculate hours of service to figure out who can work because a computer does it for them.

"From the shippers' standpoint, they can know where their shipment is down to the blade of grass," Fielkow said.

There will be some drivers who will follow through on the promise of #ELDorMe and retire. And since the average truck driver is 55, this could lead to fewer drivers for an industry already suffering a labor shortage. Some shippers may also see deliveries take longer than under the current system.

"If it was too good to be true in terms of how fast your cargo was getting there, it probably was too good to be true," Fielkow said. "And that's going to change."

Over the next two weeks, some truckers will make a lot of noise calling on Trump to roll back this "burdensome regulation." But they had two years to install ELDs, and they wasted that time.

Every American who travels the highways or believes in level playing fields should support this law. Because waiting an extra day for a new pair of shoes is worth saving lives.

Sulphur Springs musician toots her own horn

TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Kelley Fletcher of Sulphur Springs is a tall girl who plays trumpet. In junior high school, she liked the sound the band director produced when he played his trumpet. So she decided to learn how to play the instrument.

"I picked up that trumpet and played a note, and it came out immediately. And the band director, Mr. Wood, told me I'd be great on trumpet. Forty-two years later, I'm still torturing people who hear me play."

Kelley says she is still trying to become a good trumpet player.

"I think most trumpet players will say they are always becoming, because you never feel like you master the instrument."

In high school, she made it to state playing a trumpet she got at a pawnshop. As a reward, her father gave her a professional instrument.

"He came in the house one day and he had bought me a Bach Stradivarius, one of the pro-line trumpets. To have one of those that I could call my own was real exciting."

Harry James tops her list of idols.

"When I hear him play, I feel something. He puts a lot of emotion in his playing, and he's a master musician."

Kelley has played professionally 31 years and taught band on high school and college levels for 28 of those years. Now she has her own band. Last July, she got to perform at home with a full orchestra on the Sulphur Springs Square.

"I was blessed with the opportunity to actually have an arrangement written for me with orchestra. It was a medley of Harry James tunes. It had a big ending, then a bigger ending, and it was so exciting. All the people on the square were very kind and applauded. I was on cloud nine because hearing a full orchestra behind me with strings and everything was a thrill."

I met Kelley at the First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs. It is a large complex of buildings, and when I started asking people about where to find the female trumpet player they all pointed me in the right direction. When I first saw her in a hallway she was holding her trumpet, which gave me the feeling it's never far away from her. We went to the choir room and didn't even bother to close the door. I recorded her playing and Kelley's trumpet sounded all over the church.

Kelley has a wonderful sense of humor and is always making jokes about her height. She's over 6 feet tall. When she was performing in the square with the orchestra the audience gave her a standing ovation. I complimented her on that.

"Well, they didn't have chairs," she said.

CARUSO

From 1B

Former U.S. Rep. Michael Grimm also enjoys the backing and support of Bannon. Grimm is yet another pernicious candidate. He was convicted on federal tax fraud charges and served seven months in prison.

Republicans ought to concern themselves with the fact that Bannon still has tremendous sway with President Donald Trump. There's no doubt Bannon pushed Trump to back Moore, and the president did, despite the sexual assault allegations. Trump then directed the Republican National Committee, which had pulled resources from the state, to dive back in and support Moore. As long as Bannon has access to Trump, we can expect Trump to support Bannon-backed candidates.

Republicans have to ask themselves if the long-term damage Bannon does to the party is worth the mere possibility of short-term gains. Despite economic numbers any president would want (high GDP, low unemployment and a soaring stock market), Trump's average job approval at the conservative website RealClearPolitics sits at an appalling 37 percent.

Republican officeholders should stop waiting until they're heading out the door to speak up.

If they don't want their party turned over to the likes of a Steve Bannon, they have to stand up now and tell him and his candidates that they're not welcome in the GOP — or the party risks being the minority party for a long time.

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Obituaries

Frances Dee Harvey

Frances Dee Harvey, transitioned to be with the Lord our Father on Thursday December 14, 2017.

She was born October 10, 1937 in Grapevine, Texas to Khleber and Pearl Lipscomb.

France Dee grew up in Grapevine and attended Grapevine High School. She met the love of her life and soul mate Richard Harvey and they married March 3, 1956. Frances Dee had a quick wit and was full of laughter and cheer. She loved to cook and play in her beautiful garden and most of all she loved to have fun with family and friends. She always had a smile on her face and wanted to make others happy. She knew no strangers. Frances delivered Meals on Wheels for years and enjoyed seeing her clients.

She is survived by her loving husband Richard Harvey and sons, Rick and wife Vikki, Troy and his partner Ron Champion of San Angelo. Her daughter Kyan and husband James Hendry of Midland. She had four grandsons; Travis and wife Rachelle, Blake and wife Brittany, Chad and wife Kelsie Harvey and Sheldon and wife Sieanna Ginn. Granddaughter Mallory and husband John Buck. She had five great granddaughters, Addison, Jett and Makayla Harvey, Ellie Buck, Angel and Evie Ginn and five great grandsons, Ryan, Jakob, Cole Harvey, Jaxon Buck and August Ginn.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Kelsey Logan Angel Fund, P. O. Box 5072, Midland, Texas 79704, Meals on Wheels of Midland or a charity of your choice.

We also want to send a very special and warm thank you to Hospice of Midland and Nurses Unlimited of Midland.

At the request of Frances Dee there will be no formal services.

"Thanks for the memories. This is not a good bye, {but I will see you later}.

Lewallen Garcia Pipkin Funeral Home
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Death Notices

Barbara W. Larsen

Barbara W. Larsen, 90, of Midland, passed away on Thursday, December 14, 2017 surrounded by her family. Memorial services will be held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at Parks Faudree Family Chapel at Manor Park in Midland. Flowers may be sent to Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

She is survived by her children, Lyn Yater, Roger Larsen, Gregory Larsen and Kevin Larsen.

Margaret G. Berger

Margaret G. Berger, 96, of Midland, Texas passed away Friday, December 15, 2017 surrounded by her loving family.

Services are pending with Ellis Funeral Home.

James "Jimmy" Phillips

James "Jimmy" Phillips, 69, of Midland passed away on Saturday, December 16, 2017 surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife, Sherry Phillips, four sons and 7 grandchildren.

Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland.

Lottie Tranum

Lottie Tranum, 92, of Midland, passed away on Friday, December 15, 2017. There will be private services held with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home at Resthaven Cemetery. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

She is survived by her daughter, Janet Tranum.

Sue Ann Ward

Sue Ann Ward, 70, of Midland passed away on Friday, December 15, 2017. She is survived by her husband, William Ward; son Jason Russell Gracey and daughter Natalie Gracey Cashdollar. No services scheduled at this time with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Midland. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

LINDENBERGER

From 1B

has already said he's not going to vote exclusively with the Democrats.

That's good. We need two or three Democrats to make the same pledge, and then for all of them to join their brave Republicans.

Is it so hard to imagine that three or so Republicans could put policy over party? We could start with the anti-Trumpers, from John McCain to Lindsey Graham to Olympia Snow. But why not Cory Gardner, Lamar Alexander, or others?

On the left, we could encourage red-state Dems, like Joe Manchin, to join Jones as a founding member of a new pragmatism.

This new Gang of Six, say, would have a very simple operating philosophy.

They'd start by simply asking themselves: What would legislation look like if its authors were free to entirely disregard the five or 10 most conservative members of their party and write it for the middle? If, literally, the centrists got to write the bills?

It's sure to look different than things look today.

This new gang could recruit other members on a subject-by-subject basis, but the core of their work would be to commit to supporting legislation from the right or the left, so long as it fell reasonably within the mainstream of either party.

They'd have plenty of leverage to keep the extremism from the left or right out of the bills. Don't believe me?

Look at how much influence wily ole Justice Anthony Kennedy has carved out for himself on the Supreme Court simply by refusing to be predictable. As the court's swing vote, he's had arguably more influence on the Constitution and with it the way we live than any single individual of the past 20 years.

The Gang of Six would be the swing votes of the Senate.

Loyal to each other, they would commit to passing the best legislation — and to saying the hell with the extremists on the edges of their parties.

Now that would be a Christmas-time miracle. But it's possible.

It just requires a little faith on our part, and a little courage on theirs.

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Michael Macor/San Francisco Chronicle

Wind turbines dot the hills outside of Rio Vista, Ca on Wed. April 19, 2017.

PRO Are U.S. oil and gas producers really doing enough to protect the environment? **CON**

PRO: Our oil and gas producers lead world in cutting carbon emissions

MATTHEW TODD
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON

When it comes to energy, the United States has achieved an unprecedented accomplishment, not just in energy produced here at home but also in environmental progress.

The U.S. currently leads the world in natural gas and oil production, while simultaneously serving as the global leader in cutting energy-related carbon emissions.

This is remarkable because it demonstrates how market forces and technological innovations have helped produce more energy and a cleaner environment. Continued leadership by the U.S. natural gas and oil industry will only help us make further improvements.

This month, the industry launched a new initiative that will continue that trend by accelerating reductions in emissions of methane, the second most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, and reductions in volatile organic compounds, or VOCs.

The Environmental Partnership is a voluntary, industry-led program that includes 26 companies of all sizes across the nation. These natural gas and oil producers have agreed to take action, learn and collaborate with one another in order to markedly improve their environmental performance.

At its outset this month, the Environmental Partnership developed three performance programs the companies will implement.

The companies will use advanced monitoring technologies to find and repair leaking equipment, replace or modify higher-emitting equipment and implement best practices to further reduce their methane emissions.

The participants will implement at least one of the performance programs, with the vast majority implementing all three. The companies have also agreed to track their progress and report annually, allowing the program to demonstrate its results to the public.

Importantly, the Environmental Partnership will serve as a collaborative platform in which companies of all sizes can partner and learn collectively on technology deployment and operational adjustments to further improve their environmental performance.

It is this type of leadership that has helped make the United States the gold standard for environmental and energy efficient performance in the energy sector.

Since 1990, the U.S. natural gas and oil industry has invested more than $300 billion to improve

Please see **PRO**/8B

CON: Oil and gas producers talk a better green game than they play

MICHAEL E. KRAFT
Tribune News Service

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The oil and gas industry is trying to convince us it is serious about a warming planet. It promises to expand its efforts to reduce or eliminate carbon emissions that are the principal cause of climate change.

This would be terrific news if the industry were indeed committed to such efforts. But there are reasons to doubt that it is.

For years the same industry denied the reality of climate change, sought to diminish public concern over it and lobbied to block or slow government action on it.

Since the Trump administration took office, oil and gas interests have pressed to weaken EPA, DOE and Interior Department regulations that affect the industry.

These include vehicle fuel economy standards that would help to clean the air in our cities while also reducing carbon emissions as well as the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan that would have put the nation on a path to cleaner ways of producing electricity.

The industry has urged the Interior Department to open even more federal lands and offshore areas for oil and natural gas exploration and drilling.

Much of the industry has backed Trump administration and congressional efforts to curtail research on climate change science, scrub government websites of climate change data and reports, and reduce modest subsidies for renewable energy while increasing them for fossil fuels.

All of these actions by the industry and its supporters have taken place even as public concern about climate change has soared and the scientific community has produced ever more definitive reports

Please see **CON**/8B

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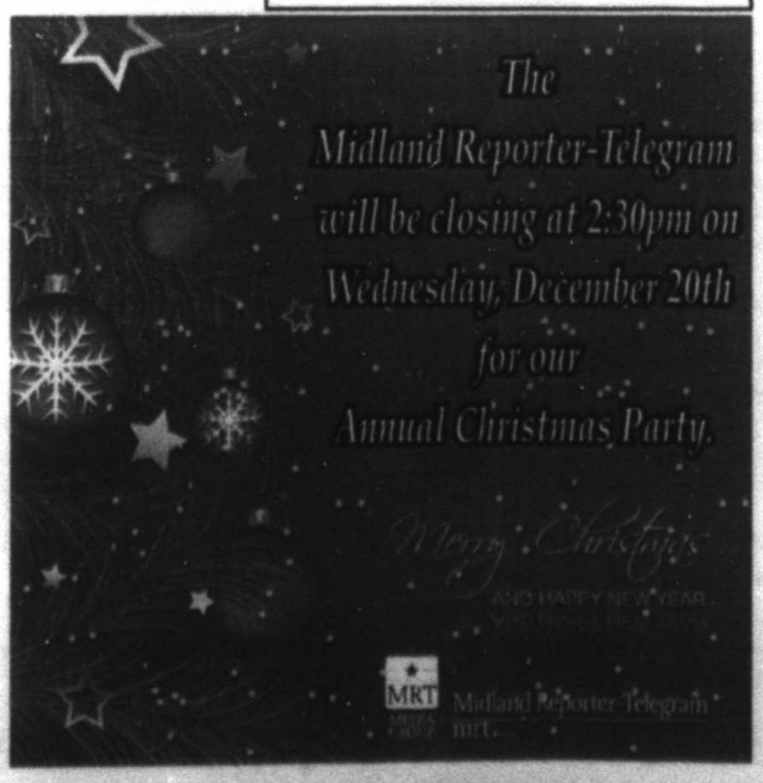

Helping Hands of Midland
1301 BRINSON LANE
(BEHIND ROGERS FORD)
520-8900
www.helpinghandsmidland.com

Because we feel it is important that you know how and where your donations to Helping Hands are spent, here is what was done last week:

Electric	6 families	$ 1,517.67
Water	2 families	$ 1,111.50
Rent	28 families	$ 23,545.73
TOTAL		$ 26,174.90

For those of you who have tried to call our donation line to get our trucks to come to your home to pick up your donations, you know that we have not been sending our trucks out for the past three or four weeks. The reason we were not able to do so is because we were so inundated by broken or ruined items that had been given to us that we were literally buried in them. Keeping in mind that we are all volunteers and do not have a huge number of people to get the work done, it has taken every bit of that time to haul load after load of soiled mattresses, broken tables and chairs, and ripped sofas to the landfill. Each of those trips takes two of our volunteers over an hour…time that is critically needed at the store. It costs us to haul loads to the landfill. The money those trips cost us we feel could be better spent on assisting the poor with their rent, medical and utility bills.

We are in a position where we will be able to resume our pickups, however we feel the need to explain that we will no longer be able to come to your home and pick up whatever you want to give to us. We will only be able to accept those items that we can sell or use in our store or donate to someone in need. We will not accept items that are meant for the landfill. While we hate to say no, we hope you understand that our time is valuable and our money is precious to our goal of helping the poor.

To all those many, many people who continue to donate good, usable items to us, please know that we thank and appreciate you very, very much! Because of people like you our store has never done better, which has only allowed us to increase our assistance to those in need. God bless you for your continued support!

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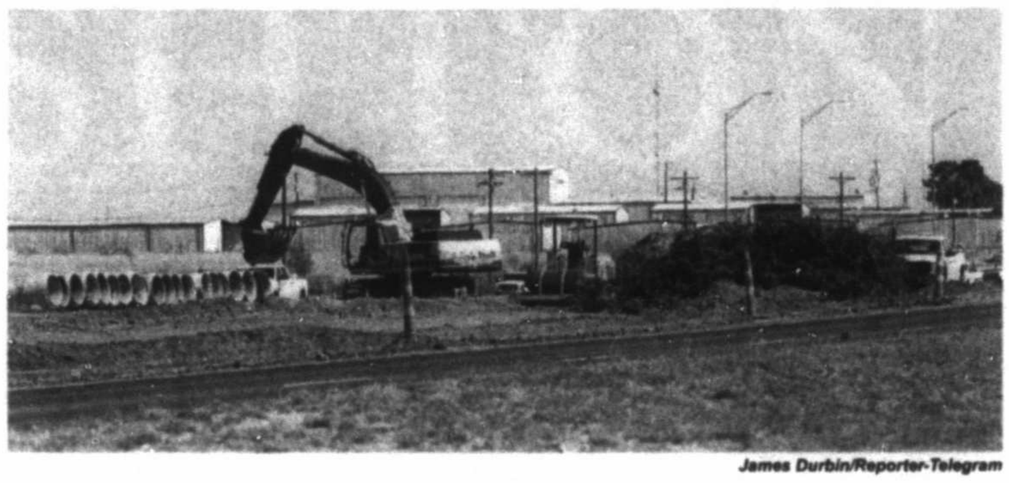
How Texas addresses economic challenges will determine future growth



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Construction to expand Loop 250 east of Fairgrounds Road photographed Oct. 26. One of the longer-term issues for ensuring economic strength is adequate investment in infrastructure.

M. Ray Perryman
The economist

Taking a long-term view of the outlook for the Texas economy, I am encouraged, yet also cautious. With all of the key ingredients for economic success, the state is well positioned for expansion in business activity and the prosperity that goes with it for decades to come. However, continued economic performance hinges on adapting to the underlying changes in the population and workforce.

Recently, the Texas economy has also seen notable job growth, adding 316,100 jobs over the past year. The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has fallen to 3.9 percent, the lowest unemployment rate in four decades. Texas has been a growth leader in the nation and, indeed, the world for a number of years. The state weathered the Great Recession and ensuing real estate crisis better than most parts of the United States, survived a major downturn in oil prices and activity, and was adding jobs at a notable pace even before the energy sector (a major export sector) began its recovery. The strength and diversity of the economy will clearly help in dealing with challenges on the horizon.

During the next few years, the disruption caused by Hurricane Harvey will affect the performance of the Texas economy and, in particular, the Gulf Coast areas. A number of communities were devastated by the wind and flooding rains, and many are still recovering. In the short term, some industries will see an increase in activity (such as construction), but the long-term effects are decidedly negative. (The effects will occur over several years and will be partially masked by other positive growth factors.) Moreover, a full recovery for the economy (and then some) is expected.

A positive contributing factor to the state's economic performance is remarkable recovery in energy. The rig count is currently averaging nearly 200 higher than a year ago. According to Baker Hughes, the Texas counts were averaging in the range of 440 through much of the fall of 2017. This additional activity is not only beneficial to the economies of major production regions such as the Permian Basin, but to businesses across the state as well. Current forecasts of oil prices and demand support continued activity at these levels, with some upward movement in the future as growth in the global economy accelerates. The industry has always been and will always be cyclical and we may not see $100 crude any time soon, but energy will clearly contribute to long-term growth. In particular, the sector has managed to reduce its costs dramatically in the past few years, thus being able to sustain activity at much lower prices than was the case not too long ago.

Manufacturing is also a source of strength, employing more than 7 percent of Texans, paying high wages, and producing hundreds of billions of dollars in goods for export each year. Texas has been adding jobs in manufacturing, even as other states lose them by the thousands. Manufacturing businesses generate opportunities for a broad spectrum of other types of firms ranging from suppliers of needed inputs to those providing business services. We recently studied the sector and found that a typical manufacturing job leads to 3.778 additional jobs in the state. Some sectors (such as refining, which frequently uses Texas oil as its primary input) generate even higher benefits. When you consider the multiplier effects, manufacturing accounts for about 30 percent of Texas employment and an even larger proportion of gross product.

All in all, I think Texas is likely to see somewhat faster growth than the nation, with real gross product up by 3.25 percent per annum through 2040. I am projecting that employment will rise by 1.70 percent per year over the period, which represents a solid rate of expansion.

Looking ahead at what's in store for the Texas economy, I see challenges with the potential to affect both short-term and long-term growth prospects. Over the short term, it will take time for the Gulf Coast region to return to normal after Harvey, but long-term economic performance is unlikely to be harmed for the state or for the greater Houston area (though communities sustaining major wind damage, such as Rockport and Port Aransas, may struggle to recover). Longer-term issues include ensuring adequate investment in infrastructure, improving public education, encouraging higher education and training for young Texans, and enhancing the preparedness of the workforce for the jobs of the future. The better we deal with these challenges, the better the state economy will perform.

Dr. M. Ray Perryman is President and Chief Executive Officer of The Perryman Group (www.perrymangroup.com). He also serves as Institute Distinguished Professor of Economic Theory and Method at the International Institute for Advanced Studies.

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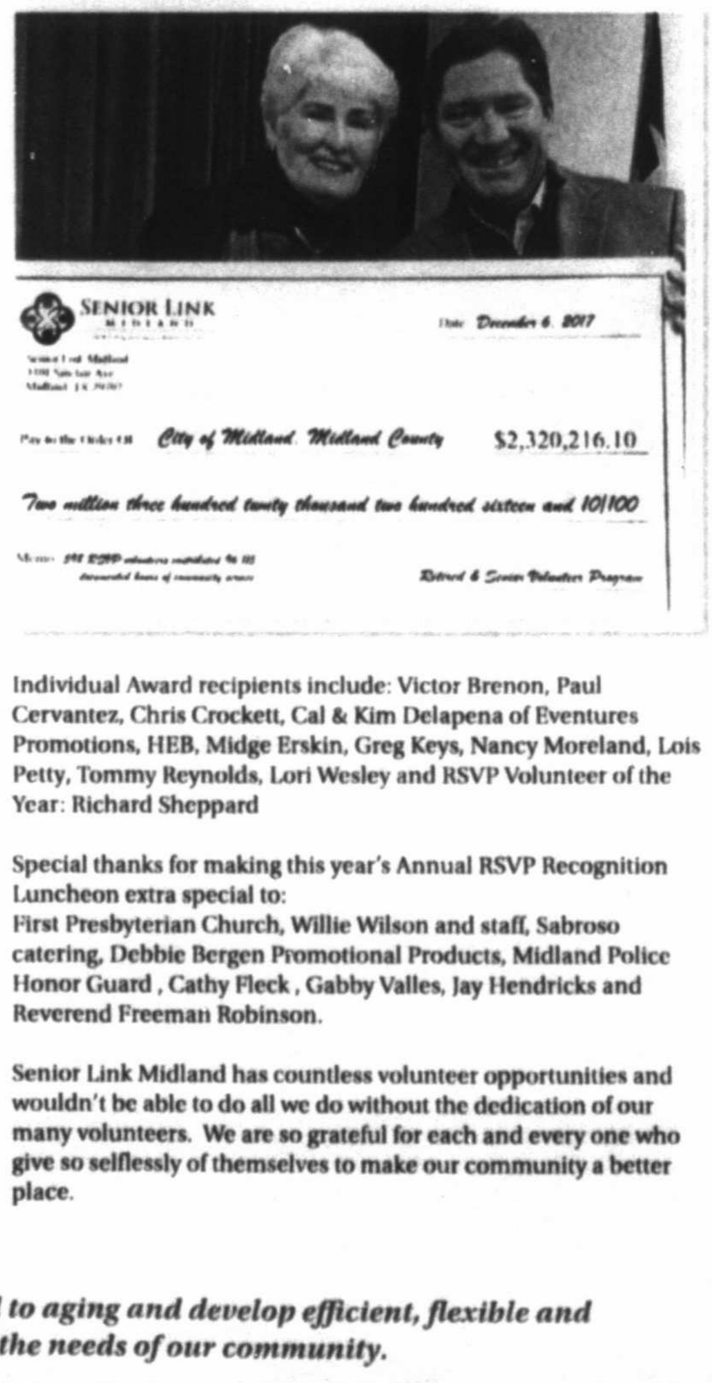

598 volunteers for their dedication of 96,115 volunteer hours of service to the City of Midland and Midland County. The value of these hours in a dollar amount is $2, 320, 216.10. Midland RSVP works with over 50 local non-profits, organizations, and healthcare agencies providing them with much needed volunteer support.

President's Volunteer Service Awards are awarded to volunteers who earn a minimum of 4,000 volunteer hours in their life time. These individuals demonstrate commitment and inspire others to get involved and help others. This year's Presidential Service Award Winners recipients are:
Marion Axe earning 4100 hours, Ann Barr earning 4750 hours (First dual Presidential Award recipient), Paul Janssen earning 4023 hours, Nancy Moreland earning 4216 hours, Robert Reimers earning 4143 hours and Louise Wiles earning 4877 hours (award presented post humorous)

Bob Cornell was also recognized for his 40 years of service with the American Red Cross of West Texas. He has recorded more than 42,000 volunteer hours over his 22 years with RSVP.

Individual Award recipients include: Victor Brenon, Paul Cervantez, Chris Crockett, Cal & Kim Delapena of Eventures Promotions, HEB, Midge Erskin, Greg Keys, Nancy Moreland, Lois Petty, Tommy Reynolds, Lori Wesley and RSVP Volunteer of the Year: Richard Sheppard

Special thanks for making this year's Annual RSVP Recognition Luncheon extra special to:
First Presbyterian Church, Willie Wilson and staff, Sabroso catering, Debbie Bergen Promotional Products, Midland Police Honor Guard , Cathy Fleck , Gabby Valles, Jay Hendricks and Reverend Freeman Robinson.

Senior Link Midland has countless volunteer opportunities and wouldn't be able to do all we do without the dedication of our many volunteers. We are so grateful for each and every one who give so selflessly of themselves to make our community a better place.

Our mission is to address challenges related to aging and develop efficient, flexible and compassionate ways to meet the needs of our community.

If you are 55 years and older and would like to make a difference in our community please call Senior Link Midland and ask for Saul or Lauren @ 432-689-6693.

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Trump's ratings sinking among Fox devotees

■ While president's poll numbers drop, his ratings for 'Hannity & Co.' do not

JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

The most important poll number to come out (last) week had nothing to do with defeated Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore. It had to do with Fox News and Donald Trump. We'll get to the numbers in a minute.

First: some disclosure. I'm a Fox contributor and a Trump skeptic (aka a former "Never Trumper"). That makes this an awkward column to write, for reasons that should be fairly obvious.

Regardless, I don't think I am revealing any state or corporate secrets that Fox is the president's favorite news network. He says as much all the time. According to CBS' Mark Knoller, as of last October, President Trump gave more than three times as many interviews (18) to Fox and Fox Business as he has to NBC, ABC and CBS combined (five). He's given two to religious networks and zero to CNN.

Some Fox defenders would say this is understandable because the other networks are so hostile toward the president. They certainly have a point.

Fox critics would say that Trump favors Fox because the network is exceedingly friendly to the president. Some even call it Trump's "state TV."

The critics have a point, too, though an important distinction needs to be made.

Most of the president's interviews haven't been with the news side — which I think usually does a very good job of covering the news honestly and fairly — but with the opinion side. Sean Hannity, probably Trump's favorite host and, reportedly, an informal Trump adviser, explained in April 2016, "If I'm interviewing Hillary Clinton, it's gonna be a hundred times harder than any Republican, because I believe the Republicans ... have a far better vision, one that I agree with ... I'm not a journalist, I'm a talk show host." (Hannity recently revised this, telling the New York Times he's an "advocacy journalist").

Many other cable hosts pretend that they are dispassionate journalists when any reasonable viewer can see that they are ideological and political partisans. MSNBC host Rachel Maddow touts her show as covering the news "without fear or favor." I don't know about the fear part, but any remotely objective viewer would see an awful lot of favor — to Democrats, liberals, Trump critics, etc.

Still, the same objective viewer simply must concede that Fox, particularly "Fox and Friends" (which Trump watches to the point where many in Washington now call the program the "president's daily briefing") and the primetime line-up — with Hannity at the forefront — is objectively and intensely pro-Trump.

The news side is a different animal (which is probably why President Trump won't sit down with news anchors Bret Baier or Chris Wallace). But even here it's fair to say Fox doesn't follow the path forged by other news organizations, which often appear so determined to hurt Trump that they fall for bogus stories, which my National Review colleague Rich Lowry calls, "too anti-Trump to check." Whether that makes them biased toward Trump is ultimately in the eye of the beholder. That Hannity & Co. bend over backward to cast Trump in as favorable a light as possible really isn't up for debate.

But there's a difference between favorable and helpful. Much of the opinion stuff essentially involves mirroring Trump's Twitter feed, attacking Trump critics and railing about the "rigged system," "fake news" and the "deep state." It's so much muchness, as the British say.

The focus on the reality show drama and cult-of-personality stuff is distracting from the more straightforward, if more boring, case for the White House. That may not be evident in the ratings, but it is in the polls. Trump has been hemorrhaging support among key demographics for months, despite a much improving economy, victory over ISIS and mostly excellent judicial appointments.

Which brings me to those poll numbers. Suffolk University and USA Today released a poll (last) week that found that among people who trust Fox News the most, the president's approval rating has been sinking. His favorability among Fox devotees in June was 90 percent. In October, it was 74 percent. (Last) week? Fifty-eight percent. If that trend continues, he will be underwater with the Fox audience long before the 2018 midterms.

You can cry "fake polls," as Trump often does. But was the same poll fake in June? Or are the same trends that led to Trump's historically abysmal approval ratings now reaching even the Fox faithful?

From Virginia to Oklahoma to Alabama, establishment and anti-establishment GOP candidates alike have lost in large part because Democrats, independents and a significant number of Republicans disapprove of Trump more than they approve of him. His pander-to-the-base approach still does wonders for Hannity & Co.'s ratings, but ratings aren't votes.

OUR VIEW

MDC helps level the health care playing field

Thank you, Midland Development Corp., for your help in recruiting and retaining doctors in Midland.

While the price has been steep — $2 million over the past three years — our community is not a place where we can expect any different. Beggars really can't be choosers.

As Trevor Hawes reported last week, Midland Memorial recruited 14 doctors this year. Nine specialize in internal medicine or are hospitalists. Other specialties brought to Midland include pediatrics, cardiology, vascular surgery, inpatient psychiatry and family medicine.

Furthermore, three physicians are slated to start practice in 2018. Two will focus on internal medicine/hospitalist, and the other will specialize in maternal fetal medicine, which will help grow MMH's neonatal intensive care unit.

A very encouraging note in the story is that since September 2010, the retention rate of doctors has jumped from 51 percent to 86 percent. Midland Memorial credits the help of the MDC for the improvement.

The battle to keep staffing at adequate levels will be expensive. Some residents get as many as 100 job offers. The competition for their services is good for them but bad for areas bidding for their services. Again, thank you to the MDC for helping level that playing field.

We have to admit we were annoyed when we read in Hawes' story that physicians tend to focus on metropolitan areas where they don't have to be on-call with the hospital. For those concerned about health care quality, that's not news we like to hear.

Midland Memorial needs to be able to offer the best care possible because not everyone has the ability to hop on a plane and fly to Dallas or Houston for medical care. Life also gets in the way and keeps people in Midland for emergency situations, which means we need the best medical care possible at Midland Memorial for all Midland County residents.

We don't think the Midland Development Corp. should have to justify its investment in health care with statistics on employment, wages, taxes, etc. What matters is there are more doctors and better health care available for a growing community.

The Midland Development Corp., which is funded by a quarter-cent sales tax, is making things happen in our community. We have seen road projects come to fruition that might not have happened otherwise, higher education investment that makes sense and now a commitment to health care that is needed in a community where tens of thousands of new residents are expected in the next five to 10 years.

Economic development isn't easy. In Midland, our development corporation has sometimes struggled to determine its mission and following through with sound policy. This MDC board is getting it right.

Midland Reporter-Telegram

A Hearst newspaper

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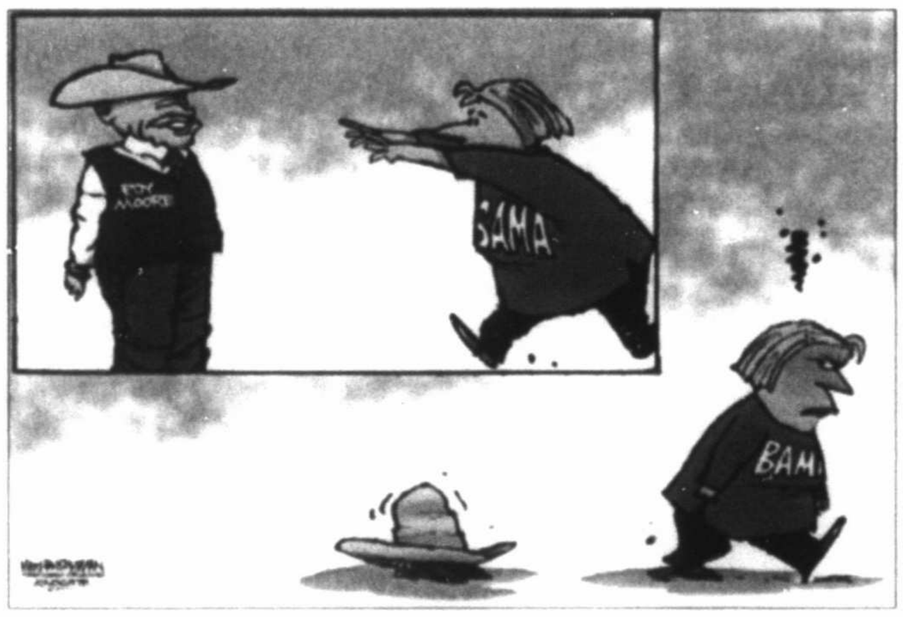


GOP is being decimated under Trump

■ Circumstances, personal qualities that led to president's victory aren't helping his party

RICH LOWRY
King Features Syndicate

The past two months of electoral losses for the Trump GOP feel very familiar.

Newly elected President Barack Obama's party lost off-year gubernatorial elections in Virginia and New Jersey, and suffered a stunning upset in a Senate race it had no business losing in Massachusetts. Donald Trump's party lost off-year gubernatorial elections in Virginia and New Jersey, and suffered a stunning upset in a Senate race it had no business losing in Alabama.

We don't know if Trump will experience a midterm shellacking on par with Obama's in 2010, or, getting more speculative, go on to win re-election anyway. But every indication is that Obama and Trump are similar in that their modes of operating work much better for them than their parties.

Both pioneered a different way of doing presidential politics, and built a new coalition for victory. But no one could replicate Obama's model, and so far, no one has shown any signs of successfully adapting to, let alone copying, Trump's.

Other Democrats didn't have Obama's personal magnetism, or ability to present garden-variety liberal positions as a middle way born of excruciating thoughtfulness. They weren't bonded to the base and capable of turning it out in record numbers. They weren't running elections nationwide where the so-called coalition of the ascendant could truly make its electoral presence felt.

As a result, the only Democrat left standing after the Obama years was Obama himself. Trump could be creating a similar dynamic.

His behavior is designed to make the other side fear and hate him as much as possible. The president finds this entertaining, and it has the added advantage of convincing his voters that, whatever his other flaws, Trump has "the right enemies."

The problem is that all the people stirred up into a lather of anti-Trump loathing might want to do something with all their pent-up energy -- like vote. With Trump nowhere near a ballot for the next three years, the only alternative is to take it out on the nearest person with an "R" next to his name.

Ed Gillespie ran away from Trump and lost in Virginia. Roy Moore ran toward Trump (with a lot of excess baggage) and lost in Alabama. One was a wonky establishment Republican careful to sand away any hard edges in his political persona; the other was an obstreperous and ignorant insurgent Republican who prided himself on his outrageousness. It didn't matter.

They both were defeated the same way, holding their own Republican voters but getting overwhelmed by a tide of millennials, suburbanites and minorities motivated by their abiding animus toward Trump.

The backlash that it was expected Trump would create among these voters in 2016, to his own detriment, is coming about in 2017, to the detriment of his fellow Republicans. They can't rely on the circumstances or the personal qualities that helped Trump get over the top last year.

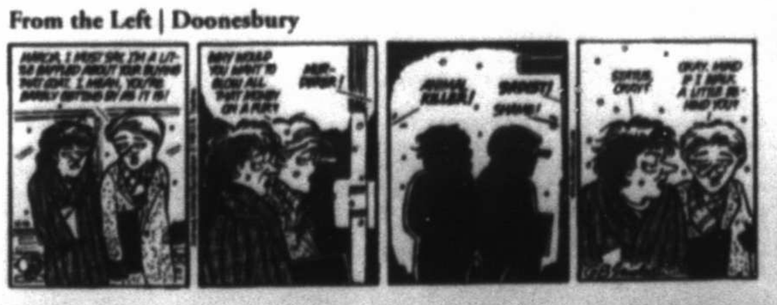
They don't have the luxury of losing the popular vote and still winning elections. They don't have the advantage of running against a historically bad candidate in Hillary Clinton. They don't have Trump's star power, brazen self-confidence, knack for diminishing opponents, innate sense for culture war politics and dominance of and understanding of the media.

This gets to the idiocy of Steve Bannon's project to try to run Trump-like insurgents everywhere. Bannon is trying to recapture the magic of 2016 without the one indispensable ingredient -- Trump himself.

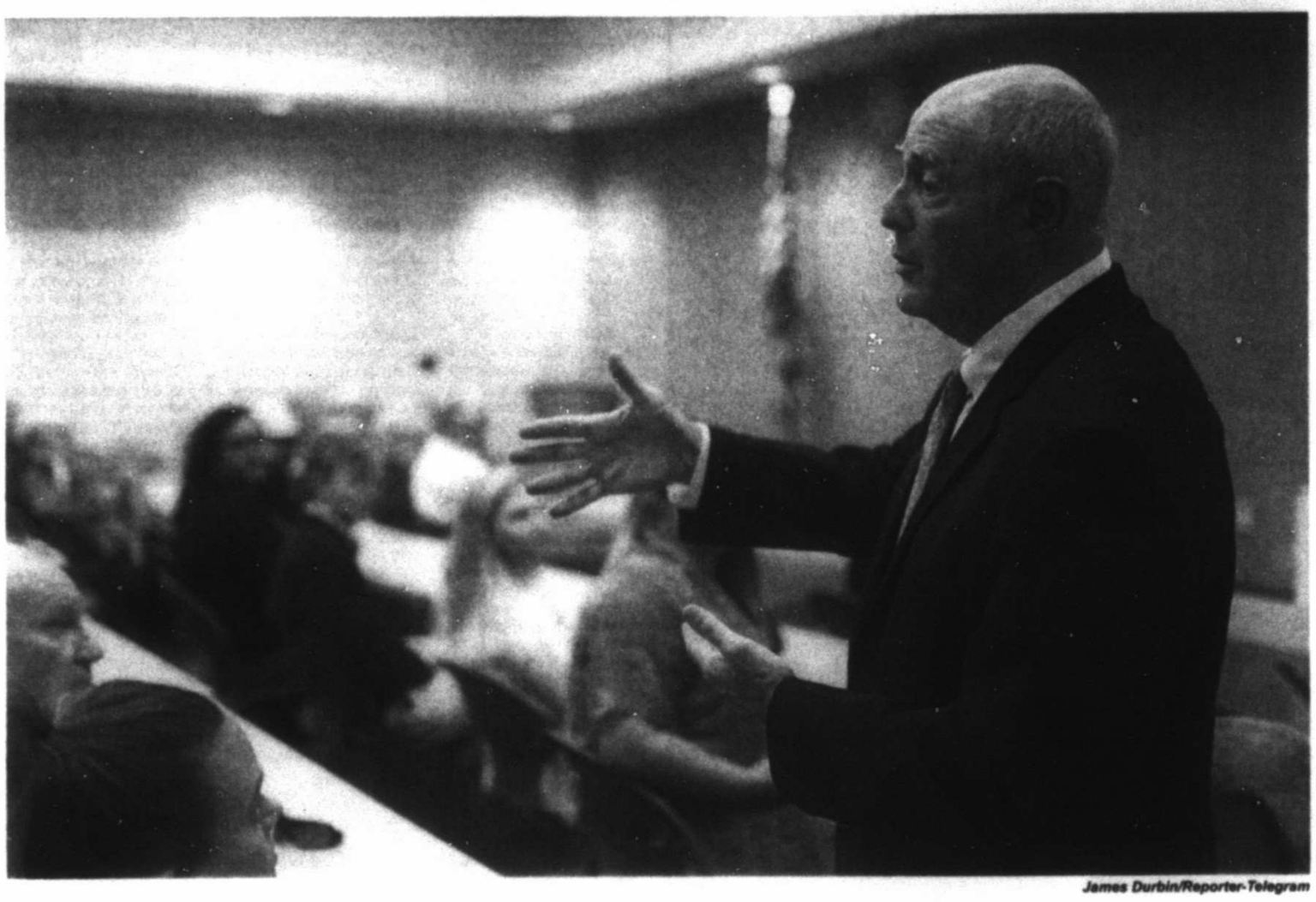
Trump, too, labors under an unrealistic view of the meaning of 2016. Just because he won the presidency when he had an approval rating in the 30s, doesn't mean it's a good idea to stay in the 30s. In the Alabama exit polls, Trump's approval rating was 48 percent; if it had been 51 percent, it might have been enough for Moore to win.

With the right opponent and the right conditions in 2020, Trump may be able to win re-election — after his party gets decimated underneath him. We've seen this movie before.

From the Left | Doonesbury



From the Right | Mallard Fillmore



James Durbin/Reporter-Telegram

Kel Seliger, a senator representing District 31, met with Midlanders during a town hall meeting Oct. 25 at the Midland County Public Library Centennial Branch.

Here are the 2018 Texas primary matchups worth watching

KEN HERMAN
Austin American-Statesman

Now that we know the fields, let's look for the fun.

Monday was the filing deadline for the March primaries. Seems like we've got some potentially interesting/entertaining races. Hurray for us. Let's see what's going to be worth keeping an eye on.

Atop the list is the possibility that the Democrats could lose their own gubernatorial primary. Let me explain.

Ten candidates have filed in the Democratic gubernatorial primary. You've never heard of most of them. The better-known among them are Lupe Valdez, Andrew White and Grady Yarbrough. Until last week, Valdez was Dallas County sheriff. Until 1987, White was a kid living in the Governor's Mansion with his late dad, then-Gov. Mark White. The younger White is now a Houston businessman.

And you've seen Yarbrough's name on lots of ballots. The retired teacher's political career peaked with the Democratic nomination for a Railroad Commission seat in 2016. In 2012, he lost to Paul Sadler in a runoff for the Dem nomination to the U.S. Senate.

Valdez is the anointed candidate of Democratic Party anointers. White's the potential spoiler. A primary victory for him would be a loss for party officialdom. So that's how the Dems could lose their own primary. The second-to-last thing Dem officialdom wants is a bruising, money-burning White-Valdez runoff. The last thing Dem officialdom wants is White (or anyone other than Valdez) as its gubernatorial nominee.

White wants Democrats to see him as a relatively centrist candidate who could beat GOP Gov. Greg Abbott in November.

"My fellow Democrats, I know you're tired of losing," White said in his announcement speech last week. "I am too. If winning in November is important to you, then I'm your candidate."

So I think we can expect some intrigue/entertainment in the Democratic gubernatorial primary. Please don't disappoint us.

Abbott's lone challenger on the GOP side is SECEDE Kilgore of Irving. I harbor a personal bias against anyone who officially changes his or her name for ballot purposes. My fellow GOP primary voters seem to harbor the same bias. In 2014, Kilgore ran fourth with 1.42 percent of the vote in the four-candidate GOP gubernatorial primary won by Abbott, who, though he's jokingly referred to himself as "hell on wheels," has not listed himself that way on the ballot.

For entertainment on the GOP side, we're going to have to look to Land Commissioner George P. Bush's bid for nomination for a second term. Bush's life got a bit more complicated Monday when Jerry Patterson, Bush's predecessor, announced he's running to be Bush's successor.

There's bad blood here that could be good fun. The entertainingly (unless you're running against him) combative Patterson served three terms as land commissioner before coming in fourth in 2014 in the four-man race, won by Dan Patrick, for the GOP nomination for lite guv.

Bush is the favorite in this race. But, win or lose, Patterson will drive him crazy. And for Bush, this could be an interesting test of his name.

"The problem is — I don't think it's necessarily deserved — but the Bush name is not an asset. It's a liability," Patterson said Monday in announcing his candidacy. "And that's unfortunate."

Patterson managed to sound sincerely troubled about that.

Davey Edwards of Decatur and Rick Range of Sherman also are on the GOP ballot.

Miguel Suazo of Austin and Tex Morgan of San Antonio are the Democrats running for land commissioner.

Also potentially entertaining is Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller's bid for nomination for a second term. Anything involving Miller is potentially entertaining. And the chances have been multiplied by Trey Blocker's entry into the race. Blocker is a former lobbyist who now bills himself as an "ethics attorney, podcast host, small businessman and president of a nonprofit legal foundation."

The Miller-Blocker tussle got off to an amusing/disturbing start with Miller noting that Blocker's campaign website includes a photo of him in front of a restaurant menu board showing Nutella banana crepes were available. Miller doesn't seem to like Nutella banana crepes and everything they stand for.

There also could be some GOP civil wars in legislative races. Everpugnacious state Rep. Jonathan Stickland, R-Bedford, plans to stick his nose into some GOP legislative primaries. "I have no opponent," he tweeted. "Time to travel the state and help kick my RINO colleagues out of office. #onward #comingbackwithfriends #txlege."

RINO (Republican In Name Only) is an insult Repubs use on each other. As far as I know, there are no DINOs.

On the Democratic side, voters in a Harris County U.S. House district are going to have to pay close attention when they vote. Three of the seven candidates are Garcias.

Gracias, Garcias, for your willingness to serve. Incumbent Dem Rep. Gene Green is not seeking re-election in that district.

Let's end with my favorite race. It's on the GOP ballot in Montgomery County (near Houston) where the man known as King Wally has his first challenger in more than a decade. Wally Wilkerson, 87, has been Montgomery County GOP chair for 53 years. Terrence Boggs filed Monday to run against Wilkerson.

I'm not a term limits guy. But I could be drawn into a discussion about possibly limiting county party chairs to half a century or until somebody starts calling him King.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

What recent election results in Texas state Senate districts tell us about 2018

By Ross Ramsey
Texas Tribune

■ ANALYSIS

Half of the state senators in Texas don't have to run for re-election until 2020, and at least one of them should consider himself very, very lucky.

State Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio, represents one of the most politically competitive districts in the state. Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump by almost 12 percentage points in Uresti's SD-19.

In the 2014 governor's race, Republican Greg Abbott finished just a whisker ahead of Democrat Wendy Davis — 0.1 percentage points.

Past election results aren't necessarily a guide to the future, but turnout in Texas is lower in gubernatorial election years than in presidential election years, and in a district where the average statewide Republican has finished just 4.4 percentage points behind the average statewide Democrat, both parties will be treating that as a swing district — in the future.

For now, Uresti, who has a criminal fraud trial starting soon, is off the political hook.

So are most of the Texas senators who will be on the 2018 ballot, at least in the general election.

Three Republicans — Craig Estes of Wichita Falls, Bob Hall of Edgewood and Kel Seliger of Amarillo — have potentially formidable primary opponents.

But of the 15 senators who'll be on the ballot (out of 31 total), only one has to navigate a historically competitive general election.

That's Sen. Konni Burton, R-Colleyville. Trump edged Clinton in her district two years ago. Davis, who held that Senate seat before Burton, lost in the district but held Abbott to 52.9 percent — below his statewide result of 59.3 percent.

On average, Republicans beat Democrats in statewide races by 9 percentage points in 2014 and 2016 — doing a little better in gubernatorial years and a little worse in presidential ones.

Others have to pay attention, even if the historical numbers are a little better. Sen. Don Huffines, R-Dallas, is running for re-election in a district that typically favors Republicans. But Clinton beat Trump 49.9 percent to 45.3 percent in 2016, and Dallas County overall has become reliable Democratic territory.

Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, also has a Republican district where Clinton ran close. Trump won the district by 0.9 percentage points. Other Republicans did much better, but that's the kind of result that attracts competitive interest.

Twelve of the 15 districts on the Senate ballot in 2018 are represented by Republicans.

Most of those, and all of those held by Democrats, have remained firmly in the clutches of the party now in power during the last two election cycles. Most of 2018's competition will be in March, not in November.

GUEST VIEW

Railroad Commission still a nonbeliever on ties between North Texas earthquakes, injection disposal wells

The Dallas Morning News

North Texas' seismic tremors aren't predictable, unlike the Texas Railroad Commission's response to earthquake swarms.

A study published recently in the journal Science Advances concludes that high-pressure wastewater injection disposal wells used to bury fluids from hydraulic fracturing activities revived dormant faults near Dallas. Like clockwork, the Railroad Commission insists again that this isn't a conclusive link between earthquake swarms and oil and gas activity.

It's a sad and infuriating response in the face of compelling scientific evidence and represents another example of the commission's failure to be the regulatory watchdog body that this state deserves.

A Dallas Morning News investigation last year found that the Railroad Commission worked overtime to shield the oil and gas industry from accountability for earthquake activity across North Texas.

This agency, which remains too heavily focused on promoting the energy industry and beholden to industry campaign contributions, should assert its other role: industry regulator. With the Environmental Protection Agency under attack in Washington, the commission must not turn a blind eye to science and the risks to Texans.

And that takes a level of independence and courage that we have not seen, especially in assessing the science behind earthquakes.

The latest research concludes that pressure and fluids from wastewater injections in Johnson and Tarrant counties probably migrated into Dallas and Irving along faults. Dallas and Irving sit above the deepest portion of the Fort Worth Basin, allowing fluid injected elsewhere in the basin to flow naturally toward the two cities. Using a technique similar to an ultrasound scan, researchers showed the faults in North Texas remained dormant until industry activity triggered them.

The commission says it "has long recognized the possibility of induced seismicity related to fluid injection," imposed limited restrictions on wastewater injection, shuttered a few wells and sought more research. So what's so difficult about recognizing what the best available scientific research already knows?

Until it officially acknowledges the link between earthquakes and the disposal wells, the commission will continue to sidestep its responsibility to develop a comprehensive wastewater disposal policy. Currently, gas prices are low. However, as the energy industry rebounds, the commission must be clear on how it plans to protect Texans.

That's not just environmental talk; smart regulations can shield the industry, too, from community backlash that in many places has stopped rigs from rolling into town.

North Texas now ranks with some parts of California and Oklahoma for most damaging earthquakes, and with each study, the evidence of these being man-made due to injection well activity only increases. Finding a solution to the problem may be challenging, but the commission must accept the best available science and develop a strategy to balance industry interests with those of Texas residents.

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Editor's Note: This editorial does not represent the view of the Reporter-Telegram Editorial Board. Anyone who might have an opinion on this editorial can write a Letter to the Editor (350 words or less to mrt.com) or contact Editor Stewart Doreen about offering their own op-ed on the topic.

Con

From 3B

about climate change and its impacts. This includes the recently released National Climate Assessment that pointed to the burning of fossil fuels as the primary driver of climate change.

But suppose that we take the industry at its word. What might it do now and in the near term to alter course?

It could invest heavily in renewable energy technologies and seek to improve them. More than half of electricity generation capacity added to the U.S. grid in 2016 came from renewables. Globally, two-thirds of generating capacity came from renewable sources.

That electricity could be powering our future vehicles. Transportation accounts for a quarter of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Within the past year, nearly every major vehicle manufacturer, including Tesla, GM, Ford, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo, has announced new and expanded production of electrics or hybrids that will be more affordable and practical.

The fossil fuel industry also could foster breakthroughs in battery technology that will be essential to store energy generated by wind and solar power and to enhance driving distance between charges for electric vehicles.

The industry could fund additional research on cost-effective ways to capture and store carbon emissions from power plants. Success there could be monumentally important.

It also could help to educate the public and its elected officials about the economic, public health, environmental, and national security risks of climate change and get behind efforts to deal with it.

The Trump administration, aided by its supporters in the oil and gas industry, continues to argue that taking action on climate change will hurt the economy and cost jobs. It is wrong. With rapidly falling prices for sustainable energy sources, decarbonization creates jobs and helps the economy.

Given this reality, perhaps the oil and gas industry could shift public debate and return the nation to a position of leadership on climate change. For example, it could persuade the Trump administration to get behind the Paris Agreement.

The president's decision to withdraw from that agreement seriously hurt our standing with allies and harmed national security, the economy, and the environment.

The oil and gas industry could help to reverse that decision. If it were successful, that could go a long way to rebuilding the public respect that it has squandered in recent years.

Michael Kraft is professor emeritus of political science and public and environmental affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

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Pro

From 8B

its facilities, products and operations from an environmental standpoint, and these investments have led to real results.

The air we breathe is the cleanest in the modern era, and we're doing our part to build on this success, with the EPA reporting that total emissions of six criteria air pollutants have declined 73 percent since 1970 in the United States.

Technological advancements have made it possible to safely reach new sources of natural gas, making energy more affordable and allowing us to use it more cleanly.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, natural gas accounted for nearly one-third of all U.S. electricity generation last year.

This is the first time in history that natural gas is the leading source for power generation on an annual basis.

One benefit of the increased use of natural gas is that it emits half the carbon dioxide emissions as compared to coal when used to generate electricity.

So thanks to the growth in natural gas usage, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions from power generation have fallen by 25 percent since 2005, helping to bring America's total greenhouse gas emissions to near 25-year lows.

While there is more work to be done, this is good news for the health of our environment and the health of our economy.

More affordable clean energy means lower bills for American households and American companies, and the natural gas and oil industry is determined to make even greater progress.

Through the Environmental Partnership, our industry will continue to lead as we responsibly develop the essential natural gas and oil resources necessary to meet our nation's energy demands.

A graduate of Purdue University, Matthew Todd is program director of the Environment Partnership, a coalition of U.S. oil and gas companies committed to improving the industry's environmental performance.

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Reel Thanx, Reel Wives, and Reel Thanx Vietnam would like to express our most sincere THANX to the many sponsors, volunteers, and supporters who have helped us during our 2017 trips and events.

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We also express our THANX and appreciation to the communities of West Texas and Del Rio, and to the following who go out of their way to help make these events a success

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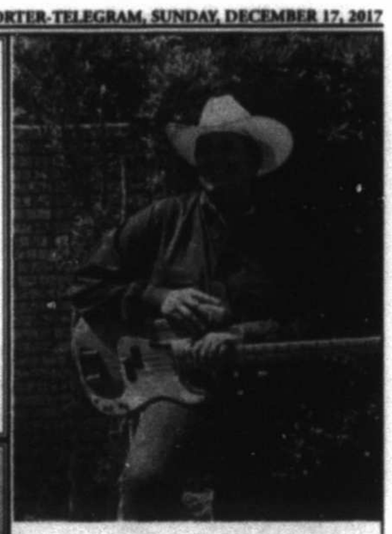

happy 2018 NEW YEAR

& THE SUNDOWNERS

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Silvers lifts Troy over UNT, 50-30, in New Orleans Bowl

By Brett Martel
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Brandon Silvers passed for four touchdowns and ran for another, Troy produced five turnovers and the Trojans beat North Texas 50-30 in the New Orleans Bowl on Saturday.

Josh Anderson, filling in for injured starter Jordan Chunn, rushed for 113 yards and two touchdowns, and Silvers also scored on a short run to help Troy (11-2) win for the 21st time in two seasons.

Silvers passed for 306 yards. Two of his TD passes went to Damion Willis, who had 136 yards and two TDs receiving on a New Orleans Bowl-record-tying 11 catches.

Mason Fine passed for 303 yards and three touchdowns for North Texas (9-5), but was intercepted twice and fumbled twice. He finished with Mean Green single-season records of 4,052 yards and 31 TDs passing.

Troy largely dominated the second half after its own turnover trouble gave North Texas hope at halftime.

The Trojans were threatening to take a three-touchdown lead in the second quarter when a bad snap sailed over Silvers' head and linebacker Colton McDonald scooped it for a 56-yard fumble return to make it 22-13. Fine later connected from 13 yards with Michael Lawrence for a diving catch on the edge of the end zone, making it 22-20.

UNT opened the second half with the ball, but Fine's short pass was deflected backward to linebacker Hunter Reese, who intercepted it to give the Trojans the ball on the North Texas 27. That set up Silvers' keeper to make it 29-20.

Troy widened the lead when Silvers rifled a pass deep down the middle to Tevaris McCormick for a 59-yard TD. McCormick's 107 yards on five catches.

Troy raced to a 15-0 lead, driving 80 yards for the opening score on Anderson's 1-yard run before converting Fine's first fumble into points.

Fine lost the ball trying to

Please see TROY/4C

Photo by Jonathan Bachman/Getty Images

The Troy Trojans celebrate with the trophy after winning the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl against the North Texas Mean Green at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome on Saturday in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Troy Trojans won 50-30.

Just win, baby !

Michael Ainsworth/AP File Photo

Washington Redskins linebacker Ryan Kerrigan (91) pressures Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) as Prescott throws a pass in the second half on Nov. 27 in Arlington. The Cowboys face the Oakland Raiders today.

Cowboys, Raiders hope to salvage disappointing seasons

By Josh Dubow
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — A season that began with such high expectations in Dallas and Oakland is headed to the finish with the Cowboys and Raiders struggling to stay alive in the playoff race.

Whether it's Ezekiel Elliott's suspension that helped derail Dallas (7-6) or the poor defense and offensive regression that doomed Oakland (6-7), these expected contenders have looked nothing like it heading into Sunday night's meeting.

"I think the two of us probably expected to have a few more wins at this point in the year," Raiders coach Jack Del Rio said.

"I just think that's just part of the hype around the game. It's understood. Been talked about a lot. It doesn't really matter. It's what you earn on the field."

After the Cowboys won 13 games and the NFC East last year and the Raiders had 12 wins for their first playoff berth since 2002, many experts believed both would be among the top contenders this season.

But Dallas got off to a sluggish start by losing three of four games early and then dropped the first three games during Elliott's suspension that ends after this week. But that might be too late for the Cowboys, who are in a three-way tie for eighth place in the NFC and need help to reach the playoffs .

"I know how important it is for us to win and that's the only thing we can control," quarterback Dak Prescott said. "The rest is kind of crossing fingers and I guess hoping, so for us it's just about winning out, and that's all we're focused on."

The Raiders dropped four straight to fall into an early hole but managed to get back into a tie for first place in the mediocre AFC West heading into last week. But Oakland lost 26-15 to the Chiefs and is one game behind Kansas City and the Chargers in the division and a game back in the wild-card race and also needs lots of help.

"If we don't beat Dallas, there's no playoff scenario," left tackle Donald Penn said. "All I can focus on is our next game because this has been a frustrating season."

Here are some other things to watch:

GOING DEEP: Oakland's Derek Carr ranks 32nd out of 35 qualifying quarterbacks this season when it comes to throwing deep. Carr has completed just 13 of 50 passes that traveled more than 20 yards downfield with three TDs, six INTs and a 48.5 rating. That's a big drop-off from a year ago when Carr had a 117.8 rating, completing 25 of 52 deep throws with seven TDs and two INTs.

"I think I completed more deep balls last year, throwing it times I shouldn't have thrown it," Carr said. "Throwing it up, and we all high-five and clap about those things. Again, when you lose, people just have a different way of spinning things."

ESSENTIAL LEE: Dallas linebacker Sean Lee returned from a three-game

Please see COWBOYS/4C

Texas A&M-Commerce wins NCAA Division II title

By David Smale
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Luis Perez led Texas A&M-Commerce to its first NCAA Division II title and second football championship, throwing for 323 yards and two touchdowns in a 37-27 victory over South Florida on Saturday night at Children's Mercy Park.

Texas A&M-Commerce (14-1) also won the 1972 NAIA championship.

Perez completed 23 of 30 for 323 yards and two touchdowns. The Harlon Hill Award winner is the first quarterback to throw for more than 300 yards in the title game since 2005. He finished the season with 4,999 passing yards.

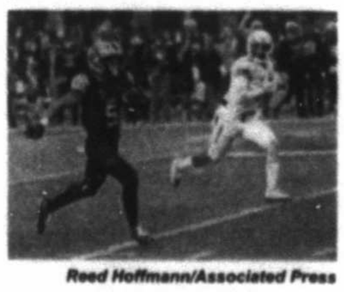
West Florida (11-4) was playing in the 26th game in the two-year history of the program. Mike Beaudry was 22 of 48 for 252 yards and a touchdown.

E.J. Thompson's 9-yard touchdown run put the Lions up 27-17 midway through the third quarter. Following a West Florida field goal, Perez hit Marquis Wimberly with a 40-yard pass to open up a two-touchdown lead at the end of the third quarter.

Commerce dominated the stats, outgaining the Argonauts 477 to 276 in total yards, but four Lions turnovers kept West Florida in the game. The Argos managed just 13 points off those turnovers.

Texas A&M-Commerce opened the game with a 97-yard touchdown drive, capped by a 50-yard scoring strike from Perez to Shawn Hooks. Following a failed Lions fake punt, West Florida responded with a 10-play, 49-yard drive. Chris Schwarz plunged in from the 1 for the tying score.

It didn't take long for Commerce to respond, as Reggie Kincade returned the ensuing kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown. It was the first kickoff return touchdown in the championship game since 2012.



Reed Hoffmann/Associated Press

Texas A&M-Commerce wide receiver Shawn Hooks (5) runs past West Florida tight end Austin Blake-Smith (8) to the end zone for the first score of the NCAA Division II college football championship game Saturday in Kansas City, Kan.

DAILY RUNDOWN

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

ON THE AIR

Basketball
Liga ACB: Obradoiro CAB vs. Real Madrid, 11:30 a.m., ELVN
Bobsleigh and Skeleton
Four-Man Bobsled, 8:30 a.m., OLYHD
College Wrestling
Indiana at Penn State, 1 p.m., BTN
Appalachian State at Oklahoma, 2 p.m., FSSW+, FCSP
Cycling
UCI Cyclo-Cross World Cup: Women's Elite, 10 a.m., OLYHD
UCI Cyclo-Cross World Cup: Men's Elite, 11 a.m., OLYHD
Golf
PNC Father/Son Challenge, Final Round, 9 a.m., GOLF
PNC Father/Son Challenge, Final Round, 2 p.m., NBC
Hockey
AHL: Milwaukee at Chicago, 3 p.m., NHL
Judo
World Masters Singles 2B, 8 a.m., ELVN
Men's College Basketball
Stony Brook at Providence, 1:30 p.m., FS1
North Carolina at Tennessee, 2 p.m., ESPN
Savannah State at Baylor, 2 p.m., FSSW, FCSC
Florida A&M at Georgia Tech, 3 p.m., ESPNU
Iona at St. John's, 3:30 p.m., FS1
San Francisco at Stanford, 5 p.m., ESPNU
Men's Soccer
PL: West Bromwich Albion vs. Manchester U, 8:15 a.m., NBCSN, NBCU
PL: Bournemouth vs. Liverpool, 10:30 a.m., NBCSN, TELE
Bundesliga: RB Leipzig vs. Hertha BSC Berlin, 11 a.m., FS2, FXDEP
Liga NOS: Sporting CF vs. Portimonense SC, Noon, GolTV
Jupiler Pro: Club Brugge KV vs. RSC Anderlecht, 1:30 p.m., ELVN
Liga NOS: CD Tondela vs. SL Benfica, 2 p.m., GolTV
Jupiler Pro: Sporting Charleroi vs. KRC Genk, 3:30 p.m., ELVN
Venezuelan: Deportivo Lara vs. Monagas SC, 4 p.m., GolTV
National Football League
Green Bay at Carolina, Noon, FOX
NY Jets at New Orleans, Noon, CBS
New England at Pittsburgh, 3:25 p.m., CBS
Oakland at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., NBC
Olympic Trials
Short Track Speed Skating: Men's & Women's 1000, Noon, NBC
Women's College Basketball
Eastern Michigan at Purdue, 11 a.m., BTN
Florida State at Texas, 11:30 a.m., FS1
Georgia Tech at Georgia, Noon, SEC
Ohio State at Cincinnati, 3 p.m., ESPN2
Marquette at Milwaukee, 4 p.m., FCSA
Women's Hockey
USA at Canada, 6 p.m., NHL
RADIO
National Football League
Houston at Jacksonville, Noon, KCRS 95.5 FM/97.5 FM/550 AM, KBYG 106.1 FM/1400 AM (Big Spring)
Oakland at Dallas, 7:30 p.m., KQRX 95.1 FM, KBEST 95.7 FM (Big Spring), KTXC 104.7 FM (Esp)
Women's College Basketball
UTRGV at Texas Tech, 2 p.m., KPET 105.1 FM, 690 AM (Lamesa)

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
American League
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Mike Broadway and DH Cody Asche on minor league contracts.
National League
ATLANTA BRAVES — Traded OF Matt Kemp to the L.A. Dodgers for 1B Adrian Gonzalez, LHP Scott Kazmir, RHP Brandon McCarthy, INF Charlie Culberson and cash. Designated Gonzalez for assignment.
CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with RHP Steve Cishek on a two-year contract.
MIAMI MARLINS — Agreed to terms with RHP Kyle Winkmeier, SS Cristhian Adames and OF Ruben Ortega on minor league contracts.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Designated RHP Jose Ruiz for assignment.
Frontier League
EVANSVILLE OTTERS — Traded 2B Jose Alter to St. Paul (AA) for C Michael Pizzitello and a player to be named.
FLORENCE FREEDOM — Exercised contract options on INF Daniel Fraga, OF Collins Cuthrell, LHP Braulio Torres-Perez, UT Ozzy Brait and RHPs Tony Vecca, Evan Bickett and Sam Brunner. Declined the option on INF Conner Tekyl.
GATEWAY GRIZZLIES — Signed OF Blake Brown to a contract extension.
JOLIET SLAMMERS — Sent INF Luis Diaz to Winnipeg (AA) to complete an earlier trade.
LAKE ERIE CRUSHERS — Traded RHP Jordan Kurokawa to Ottawa (Can-Am) for a player to be named. Signed 1B/OF Connor Simonetti to a contract extension.
SCHAUMBURG BOOMERS — Signed 2B Jose Gardner and C James Keller to contract extensions.
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MINERS — Exercised contract options on OFs Romeo Cortina and London Lindley, INFs Anthony Critelli and Brett Wiley, RHPs Austin Dubisky, Kyle Greene, Robby Rowland and John Werner, LHPs Tre Hobbs, Jesse Remington, Matthew Sparke, Tyler Stubblefield and Chris Washington, C Ben Moore, and OF Ryan Studer. Declined options on C James Alfonso, LHP Matthew Sparke and INFs Culver Plant, Trent Zaks and Craig Massoni.
WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS — Signed INF Alex Ratkum.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
CHICAGO BULLS — Assigned G Kay Felder and F/C Cristiano Felicio to Windy City (NBAGL).
LOS ANGELES LAKERS — Recalled C Thomas Bryant from South Bay (NBAGL).

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Released RB Bronson Hill. Signed TE Gabe Holmes from the practice squad.
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed CB Breon Borders.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Placed C T.J. Johnson on injured reserve. Signed RB Jarveon Williams from the practice squad.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Waived DB Darius Hillary. Signed DB C.J. Smith from the practice squad.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Released QB Joe Callahan. Activated QB Aaron Rodgers from injured reserve.
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Waived LB James Onwualu. Added CB Craig Mager to the active roster.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Placed OT Trent Brown on injured reserve. Signed S Tovis Powell from the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Placed S Kam Chancellor on injured reserve. Waived G Mark Glowinski. Signed LB Kache Palacio and CB Mike Tyson from the practice squad.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Waived PK Nick Rose. Activated PK Dustin Hopkins from injured reserve.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
BOSTON BRUINS — Assigned G Dan Vladar from Providence (AHL) to Atlanta (ECHL).
DALLAS STARS — Reassigned F Jason Dickinson to Texas (AHL).
EDMONTON OILERS — Assigned G Shane Starrett from Bakersfield (AHL) to Wichita (ECHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Assigned F Nick Lappin to Binghamton (AHL).
WINNIPEG JETS — Recalled G Jamie Phillips from Jacksonville (ECHL) to Manitoba (AHL).
American Hockey League
IOWA WILD — Assigned G Christian Frey to Fayetteville (ECHL).
SAN JOSE BARRACUDA — Assigned F Bryan Moore to Allen (ECHL). Recalled F Spencer Asuchak from San Jose.
ECHL
BRAMPTON BEAST — Signed G Brandon Bilka.
IDAHO STEELHEADS — Loaned F Justin Pierre-Jacques to San Jose (AHL).
JACKSONVILLE ICEMEN — Signed D Mark Eisenhut.
RAPID CITY RUSH — Released G Cody Karpenske as emergency backup.

JACKALOPES

ICERAYS PULL AWAY FROM JACKS

ODESSA – The Corpus Christi IceRays scored three of the four goals in the third period to topple the Odessa Jackalopes, 7-3 on Saturday at Ector County Coliseum.

Buoyed by a pair of goals from Brendan Miller, Corpus Christi (13-13-2) held a 4-2 lead after two periods. Eric Huss, Ricky Carballo and Evan Somoza each scored for Odessa (16-11-2) in the loss.

Odessa next hosts the Amarillo Bulls at 7:11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29.

NHL GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	31	23	6	2	48	117	75
Toronto	34	20	13	1	41	109	97
Boston	30	15	10	5	35	86	85
Montreal	33	14	15	4	32	87	103
Detroit	32	12	13	7	31	88	103
Ottawa	31	11	13	7	29	85	103
Florida	32	12	15	5	29	93	110
Buffalo	33	8	18	7	23	72	111

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	34	21	12	1	43	108	98
New Jersey	32	18	9	5	41	100	96
Columbus	33	20	12	1	41	95	86
N.Y. Islanders	33	18	12	3	39	118	114
N.Y. Rangers	33	18	12	3	39	108	96
Philadelphia	32	14	11	7	35	91	90
Carolina	32	14	11	7	35	90	88
Pittsburgh	33	15	14	3	33	95	106

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	34	22	10	2	46	107	84
Nashville	31	20	7	4	44	106	85
Winnipeg	33	18	10	5	41	108	94
Dallas	34	18	14	2	38	99	99
Minnesota	32	17	12	3	37	93	91
Chicago	32	16	11	5	37	98	85
Colorado	31	15	14	2	32	96	101

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	34	20	10	4	44	103	81
Vegas	31	20	9	2	42	107	95
San Jose	31	17	10	4	38	85	75
Anaheim	33	14	11	8	36	88	95
Calgary	32	16	13	3	35	91	99
Vancouver	33	15	14	4	34	87	100
Edmonton	33	14	17	2	30	86	107
Arizona	34	7	22	5	19	78	118

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's Scores
Edmonton 3, Minnesota 2
N.Y. Rangers 3, Boston 2, OT
N.Y. Islanders 4, Los Angeles 3, OT
St. Louis 2, Winnipeg 0
Ottawa 3, Montreal 0
Carolina 2, Columbus 1
Philadelphia 2, Dallas 1, OT
Washington 3, Anaheim 2, OT
Pittsburgh at Arizona, late
Tampa Bay at Colorado, late
Nashville at Calgary, late
Today's Games
St. Louis at Winnipeg, 5 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 6 p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Florida at Vegas, 7 p.m.

BOWL GLANCE

Tuesday, Dec. 19
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
Akron (7-6) vs. FAU (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 20
Frisco (Texas) Bowl
Louisiana Tech (6-6) vs. SMU (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 21
Gasparilla Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Temple (6-6) vs. FIU (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Dec. 22
Bahamas Bowl
Nassau
Ohio (8-4) vs. UAB (8-4), 12:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
Central Michigan (8-4) vs. Wyoming (7-5), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 23
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
South Florida (9-2) vs. Texas Tech (6-6), Noon (ESPN)
Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas
San Diego State (10-2) vs. Army (9-3), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Dollar General Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Appalachian State (8-4) vs. Toledo (11-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Sunday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
Honolulu
Fresno State (9-4) vs. Houston (7-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 26
Heart of Dallas Bowl
West Virginia (7-5) vs. Utah (8-4), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit
Northern Illinois (8-4) vs. Duke (6-6), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Cactus Bowl
Phoenix
Kansas State (7-5) vs. UCLA (6-6), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 27
Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
Southern Mississippi (8-4) vs. Florida State (6-6), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Pinstripe Bowl
Bronx, N.Y.
Boston College (7-5) vs. Iowa (7-5), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Foster Farms Bowl
Santa Clara, Calif.
Arizona (7-5) vs. Purdue (5-6), 8:30 p.m. (FOX)
Texas Bowl
Houston
Texas (6-6) vs. Missouri (7-5), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Thursday, Dec. 28
Military Bowl
Annapolis, Md.
Virginia (6-6) vs. Navy (8-4), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Camping World Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Oklahoma State (9-3) vs. Virginia Tech (8-3), 5:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
Stanford (9-4) vs. TCU (10-3), 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Holiday Bowl
San Diego
Washington State (9-3) vs. Michigan State (9-3), 9 p.m. (FOX)
Friday, Dec. 29
Belk Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
Wake Forest (7-5) vs. Texas A&M (7-5), 1 p.m.

Balmorhea, Borden County lead west Texas at UIL state football championships

OSCAR LEROY
oleroy@mrt.com

There was a time that I would smirk when people would say, "those were the days."

I was young and a little wet behind the ears back then. I didn't know any better.

But now I catch myself saying the same thing when it comes to high school football. Shortly after arriving at the Reporter-Telegram in 1996, Stanton won a state football championship and soon after Lee began its run of three straight state titles. Shortly after that, Midland High and Greenwood played in state championship games. "This is going to be a regular thing," so I thought.

The only reason I bring that up is that this week Texas high school football celebrates with its UIL state championship games being played at "Jerry World." As you look at the schedule, you will quickly notice that there are only two teams – Balmorhea and Borden County – that are from the western part of this state playing for state championships, and those are at the Class 1A level. It's no secret that if you want to see some of the best six-man football, you have to come out west to see it.

But when it comes to 11-man football, especially in the larger classifications, the teams that you will see challenging for state titles nowadays are the schools from out east and along the gulf coast. That's not a knock on the programs out west, that's just a fact.

Last year when we saw Abilene Wylie, Sweetwater, Iraan, Balmorhea and Borden County playing for state championships that was an exception rather than the norm. We don't even see Panhandle power Canadian in a state title game this year.

The question is, will this trend continue? In the forseeable future it looks like it will.

That's not saying that a team from out west, especially the Permian Basin, can't once again challenge for a state title. But that team will need to have breaks go its way and have enough depth and talent to do so. Teams from out here just can't out-work and out-coach teams out east like they used to.

As someone who covers sports in the Permian Basin, I hope that there is that team in the larger classifications that can challenge the big boys out east and I can stop uttering the words, "those were the days."

Until that time, we'll root for the six-man teams to carry that banner. We know they'll do a good job doing so.

■ Sticking with high school football and just a reminder, the Reporter-Telegram sports department will be doing its postseason football awards this year along with an all-postseason team for the first time at the paper around Christmas. We get bored with doing the same things all the time and we're going to try this out and see how it works and maybe we'll tinker with it in the future.

We hope this is something that continues with other sports as well.

■ It was good to see Texas Tech commit to athletic director Kirby Hocutt and football defensive coordinator David Gibbs with new contracts.

Hocutt, who also serves as chairman of the College Football Playoff Committee, was extended through 2023, while Gibbs got a new two-year deal that will increase his annual salary to $650,000 – a salary on par with what a lot of DCs are making in other Power 5 programs.

There were other universities that reportedly were interested in the two men, but both will look to remain in Lubbock a little longer as both have expressed that they like where they're at, which is unfortunately not something you hear very often.

Some on the outside might be wondering about why should anybody be excited about the re-signing of Gibbs, but those on the outside don't know just how bad the Red Raiders defense was, even before he got there three years ago. This past season, the defense was respectable and at least gave the team a chance to win games thanks to increased talent, experience and depth – all of which take time to develop.

As for Hocutt, he's only tried to increase stability in the athletic department by trying to hire folks who actually want to be in Lubbock and not just looking for the next opportunity. Some would say he messed up by giving head football coach Kliff Kingsbury an extension too soon after he was hired, but I'm sure after the three years of Tommy Tuberville, he thought that it was the best move at the time.

Maybe Kingsbury and the football team will reward Hocutt and the Red Raider fan base with a better season in 2018.

Hocutt and Tech fans are sure hoping so.

■ And finally, hope everyone gets to enjoy the holidays and rest up for what is shaping up to be a very busy next few months in Permian Basin sports.

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @OLeRoy_MRT

TEXAS HS FOOTBALL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

CLASS 6A DIVISION I
State Semifinals
Allen 28, Round Rock Cedar Ridge 7
Lake Travis 28, Katy 14
State Championship
Allen (15-0) vs. Lake Travis (13-2), 3 p.m. Dec. 23, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 6A DIVISION II
State Semifinals
Hewitt Midway 28, Longview 26
Cypress Fairbanks 14, Austin Westlake 6
State Championship
Midway (15-0) vs. Cypress Fairbanks (14-0), 7 p.m. Dec. 23, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 5A DIVISION I
State Semifinals
Dallas Highland Park 45, Denton Ryan 35
Marvin 35, Angleton 10
State Championship
Dallas Highland Park (14-1) vs. Marvin (14-0), 7 p.m. Dec. 22, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 5A DIVISION II
State Semifinals
Aledo 28, Mansfield Legacy 21
College Station 49, Austin McCallum 21
State Championship
Aledo (15-0)vs College Station (13-0), 11 a.m. Dec. 23, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION I
State Semifinals
Kennedale 54, Stephenville 28
Carthage 46, Waco La Vega 39
State Championship
Kennedale (14-1) vs. Carthage (15-0), 11 a.m. Dec. 22, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 4A DIVISION II
State Semifinals
Texarkana Pleasant Grove 45, Graham 14
West Orange-Stark 30, Wimberley 21
State Championship
Texarkana Pleasant Grove (15-0) vs. West Orange-Stark (13-0), 3 p.m. Dec. 22, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION I
State Semifinals
Brock 49, Kemp 21
Rockdale 31, Yoakum 21
State Semifinals
Brock (13-2) vs. Rockdale (12-3), 3 p.m. Thursday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 3A DIVISION II
State Semifinals
Gunter 56, Canadian 27
Newton 56, Boling 28
State Championship
Gunter (15-0) vs. Newton (14-0), 7 p.m. Thursday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 2A DIVISION I
State Semifinals
Mart 33, Stratford 13
Refugio 63, San Augustine 21
State Championship
Mart (14-1) vs. Refugio (13-1), 7 p.m. Wednesday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 2A DIVISION II
State Semifinals
Muenster 31, Wellington 28
Tenaha 60, Burton 22
State Championship
Muenster (15-0) vs. Tenaha (15-0), 11 a.m. Thursday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 1A SIX-MAN DIVISION I
State Championship
Borden County (14-0) vs. Jonesboro (13-1), 11 a.m. Wednesday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

CLASS 1A SIX-MAN DIVISION II
State Championship
Balmorhea (13-0) vs. Strawn (14-0), 2 p.m. Wednesday, Arlington's AT&T Stadium

COM's Gilliland wins 10-meter title at USA Winter Nationals

From staff reports

GREENSBORO, N.C. – With a total score of 991.10, City of Midland Aquatics' Tarrin Gilliland blew away the competition and captured the national championship in the women's 10-meter diving finals, Saturday during the USA Diving Winter National Championships at Greensboro Aquatic Center.

Gilliland, 15, outscored second-place Olivia Rosendahl (943.05), of Northwestern University, by 48.05 points in the final to win the gold medal.

Gilliland

Gilliland entered Saturday's final round as the top seed after posting the highest score in Thursday's semifinals. She began the round with a forward 3 1/2 somersault pike that registered a 76.50 mark. Gilliland followed that up with a back 3 ½ somersault tuck that scored an 84.15, helping her run away with the title.

"I just tried to stay consistent the whole time, the whole three rounds," said Gilliland, who sailed Rosendahl by nearly eight points after the preliminary round. "If I mess up, I just go on dive after dive."

The USA Diving Winter National Championship continue through Tuesday at the Greensboro Aquatic Center.

MCS wins Buena Vista Tournament title

From staff reports

IMPERIAL – The Midland Christian girls basketball team edged Iraan, 33-31 and then toppled Wink, 49-24 on Saturday to win the Buena Vista Tournament Championship.

Senior forward Blaire Neatherlin scored a game-high 20 points for MCS (13-5) in the championship game against Wink and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Against Iraan, sophomore guard Faith Truex scored a game-high 15 points and was named to the all-tournament team for her performance.

MIDLAND CHRISTIAN 33, IRAAN 31
MCS (12-5) – Faith Truex 15, Lexi Davila 2, Talie Myers 2, Kelsi Moore 4, Blaire Neatherlin 9, Bre'Anna Culbertson 1
Iraan – Hodge 2, Valentin 2, Arguello 8, Cole 2, Hermes 7, Chaney 10

MCS	7	8	7	13 –33
Iraan	6	6	10	9 –31

Free throws – MCS 6-14, Iraan 5-9. 3-point goals – MCS 3 (Truex 3), Iraan 2 (Arguello 2). Total fouls – MCS 12, Iraan 14. Fouled out – Chaney.

MIDLAND CHRISTIAN 49, WINK 24
Wink – Rodriguez 5, Smith 19
MCS (13-5) – McKenzie Fryar 6, Faith Truex 7, Brooklyn Johnson 2, Lexi Davila 4, Talie Myers 2, Kelsi Moore 4, Blaire Neatherlin 20, Bre'Anna Culbertson 4

Wink	6	2	8	8 –24
MCS	17	9	11	14 –49

Free throws – Wink 5-12, MCS 11-16. 3-point goals – Wink 3 (Smith 2, Rodriguez), MCS 2 (Truex, Neatherlin). Total fouls – Wink 15, MCS 15. Fouled out – Ramirez.

Next: MCS vs. Motley County TBA, Thursday, Dec. 28 at Wellman-Union Tourney

Friday's late girls box
ANDREWS 66, MCCAMEY 28
McCamey – Cox 6, Dominguez 4, Ramirez 6, Harrold 3, Mata 6, Falcon 8
Andrews (8-8) – Macee Mack 2, Miranda Tavarez 6, Kassidy Epperson 8, Rae Johnson 23, Laura Martinez 2, Savannah Infante 2, Belle Martinez 6, Alivia Mayfield 17

McCamey	7	12	5	11 –35
Andrews	22	9	18	17 –66

Free throws – McCamey 9-18, Andrews 15-23. 3-point goals – Andrews 3 (Tavarez, Epperson, Johnson). Total fouls – McCamey 19, Andrews 15. Fouled out – Ramirez.

Gostisbehere scores 2, Flyers beat Stars 2-1

By Aaron Bracy
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Shayne Gostisbehere scored two goals, including the game-winner 3:50 into overtime to lead the Philadelphia Flyers to their sixth straight victory, 2-1 over the Dallas Stars on Saturday night.

Brian Elliott made 26 saves and Jakub Voracek had two assists for the Flyers, whose winning streak has followed a 10-game skid.

MIDLAND HUMANE COALITION
UPCOMING EVENTS

12/31 Toasting for Tails New Year's Eve Bash at DoubleTree 9 pm - 1 am
tickets: toastingfortails.eventbrite.com

PLEASE VISIT THE EVENTS SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE
WWW.MIDLANDHUMANE.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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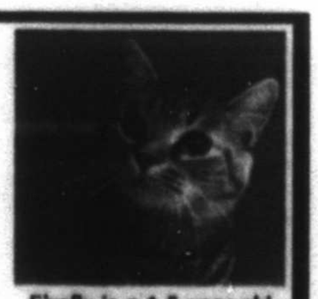
midlandhumane.org



Firefly is a 1.5 year old female tabby from Midland Animal Services with unique orange & black markings. Firefly has a sweet personality, but will need time to adapt to new surroundings.

NBA CAPSULES

ROCKETS 115
BUCKS 111

HOUSTON — James Harden scored 31 points, Chris Paul had 25 and Houston beat Milwaukee for its 13th straight victory.

The winning streak is the Rockets' longest streak since a franchise-best 22 straight in 2007-08.

Harden hit a step-back 3-pointer over Malcolm Brogdon and was fouled, giving Houston an 11-point lead with less than six minutes remaining. In the last two minutes, Paul hit back-to-back mid-range jumpers on consecutive possessions to put the game out of reach.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points, nine rebounds, five assists and four steals for Milwaukee. Khris Middleton had 23 points, and Brogdon added 20. Milwaukee has lost three straight.

CAVS 109
JAZZ 100

CLEVELAND — LeBron James had 29 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his 60th career triple-double and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the short-handed Utah Jazz 109-100 on Saturday night.

James had his fifth triple-double of the season and third in his last four games. He had 10 points in the fourth quarter, was 9 of 15 from the field and 10 of 10 at the foul line.

Cleveland has won 17 of 18 overall and 11 straight at Quicken Loans Arena.

Center Rudy Gobert (sprained ligament and bone bruise in left knee) and forward Derrick Favors (left eye laceration) were out for Utah. Both were injured during Friday night in a win in Boston.

Rookie Donovan Mitchell led the Jazz with 26 points, making 10 of 15 from the field. Utah made 17 of 34 3-point attempts.

KNICKS 111
THUNDER 96

NEW YORK — Carmelo Anthony got the cheers but New York got the win, shutting out its former All-Star in the second half and beating Oklahoma City for its fourth straight victory.

Michael Beasley tied his season high with 30 points in place of injured Kristaps Porzingis, and Doug McDermott, one of the players acquired for Anthony, added 11 of his 13 after halftime to help the Knicks break open the game. Anthony scored all 12 of his points in the first half.

Russell Westbrook had 25 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the Thunder. They were trying to sweep a three-game trip that began with Paul George's winning return to Indiana on Wednesday.

SUNS 108
TIMBERWOLVES 106

MINNEAPOLIS — Isaiah Canaan hit three free throws with 6 seconds to play in his first game with Phoenix and the Suns rallied to beat Minnesota.

Added to the roster this week after the injury-ravaged Suns received a hardship extension, Canaan finished with 15 points and drew a foul on Jeff Teague on a 3-pointer with Minnesota leading by one. Originally ruled a shot-clock violation, reply officials overturned the call and Canaan calmly sank all three shots amid a loud crowd of neon green-clad fans.

Alex Len blocked Jimmy Butler's layup attempt out of bounds on the ensueing possession. Butler had one more look from the corner, but the attempt rimmed out and the Suns snapped their five-game losing streak.

Dragan Bender and Troy Daniels each scored 17 points for the Suns. Karl-Anthony Towns led Minnesota with 28 points and 11 rebounds.

TRAIL BLAZERS 93
HORNETS 91

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — CJ McCollum had 25 points, Damian Lillard flirted with a triple-double and Portland beat Charlotte for its third straight road victory.

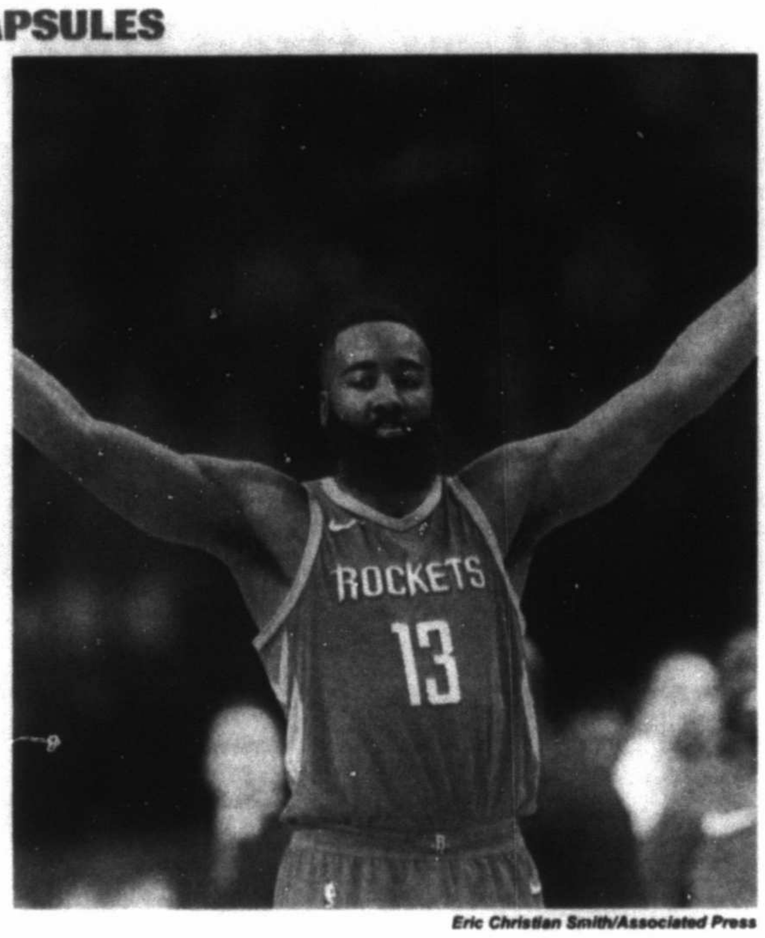
Lillard had 18 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds. Nic Batum had a season-high 23 points for the Hornets. They have dropped 10 of their last 12 games, including five straight at home.

HEAT 90
CLIPPERS 85

MIAMI — Josh Richardson scored a career-high 28 points to help Miami beat Los Angeles.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra became the franchise's victory leader with 455, passing Pat Riley. Spoelstra is only one of two active head coaches in the NBA with at least 450 wins with their current team, joining San Antonio's Gregg Popovich.

The Clippers' Lou Williams was held to 13 points, snapping a string of scoring at least 17 in 11 consecutive games.



Eric Christian Smith/Associated Press

Houston Rockets guard James Harden reacts after a 3-pointer by Chris Paul during the second half Saturday in Houston. Houston won the game 115-111.

TEXAS COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

TEXAS 75
LOUISIANA TECH 60

AUSTIN — Dylan Osetkowski scored a season-best 22 points and Texas defeated Louisiana Tech 75-60 Saturday afternoon.

Freshman center Mo Bamba added 14 points, nine rebounds and five blocks for Texas in 18 minutes.

Texas (7-3) received a big boost from another freshman big man, Jericho Sims, who produced nine points and eight rebounds filling in while Bamba was on the bench in foul trouble for chunks of the game.

Sophomore Daquan Bracey scored 20 of his career-best 24 in the second half for Tech (7-4), giving the Bulldogs a chance after they trailed by 17 late in the first half.

Bracey, using hard drives to the basket, scored nine straight points, slicing the Texas lead to four midway through the second half.

But Texas responded with two baskets inside by Sims.

Texas led by 12 at halftime thanks, in part, to four 3-point baskets, including three by Osetkowski. The Texas lead also came courtesy of 12 Louisiana Tech turnovers.

Bamba picked up three fouls in the half and was restricted to just eight minutes.

NO. 24 TEXAS TECH 73
RICE 53

LUBBOCK — Keenan Evans scored 13 points, Zhaire Smith added 12 and No. 24 Texas Tech beat Rice 73-53 on Saturday night in the Red Raiders' first game since 1999 at Lubbock Municipal Coliseum, their old home court.

Texas Tech held an alumni game before facing an old Southwest Conference opponent, then fell behind by eight points before holding the Owls (3-8) without a field goal for the final 11 minutes of the first half while taking the lead for good.

The Red Raiders (9-1) won their second straight as a ranked team, their first such victories in almost eight years. Texas Tech was ranked for a week before dropping out after a loss to Seton Hall and getting back in with over then-No. 22 Nevada.

Connor Cashaw had game highs of 21 points and 12 rebounds and was 5 of 8 from 3-point range for Rice.

Texas Tech's last game at Lubbock Municipal Coliseum was a 78-68 loss to Colorado on Feb. 24, 1999. The old arena was across a parking lot from the football stadium when the Red Raiders used it. United Spirit Arena is on the other side of the Lubbock campus.

Niem Stevenson and Zach Smith scored 10 points apiece, and Jarrett Culver and Davide Moretti each had eight. Zach Smith and Culver were among four Red Raiders with a team-high five rebounds.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN 83
LSU 82

BATON ROUGE, La. — Ivan Canete's layup with five seconds remaining lifted Stephen F. Austin to an 83-82 victory against LSU on Saturday.

Canete, who scored a season-high 20 points, made his game-winner after Tremont Waters put the Tigers (6-3) ahead with a 3-pointer with 18 seconds to play. LSU had an opportunity to win the game, but Aaron Epps missed a driving lay-in at the buzzer.

Canete, who was 8-of-11 from the field and made four 3-pointers, scored the last seven points for the Lumberjacks (10-1). A field goal by Canete put Stephen F. Austin ahead 78-77 with 1:32 left in the game. Then, a 3-pointer by Canete gave the Lumberjacks an 81-79 lead with 30 seconds remaining.

"The first layup came off a play we had drawn up," Canete said. "I got hit on the hand on the 3-pointer, but I knew it was still going in. We just got lucky on the last play. It was a scramble play and I just happened to be wide open.

"As a senior, I wanted to lead the team. I knew I had to step up after Kevon (Harris) got hurt. It was a group effort. This was a big-time win for us. It was the first time we have beaten a SEC team in a long time."

The Lumberjacks defeated an SEC team for the first time since 1970 as they extended their winning streak to six games.

Kevon Harris had 11 points and Shannon Bogues had 10 points for Stephen F. Austin. Canete's game-winning basket represented the 18th lead change of the game. The score was tied 15 times.

"We made one more play than they did at the end," Stephen F. Austin coach Kyle Keller said. "We played really well offensively. They made our defense look terrible, but our kids played better defensively in the second half. We just happened to make a couple of plays. We're just really fortunate."

Waters was the leading scorer for LSU with 19 points. Epps had a double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Skylar Mays had 17 points, while Daryl Edwards had 10 points.

"It was certainly a disappointing result," LSU coach Will Wade said. "We got what we deserved. They were tougher than us. We turned the ball over 17 times and they outrebounded us. You can't get a better look (at the end). We got a layup, but we lost the game well before the last play."

NBA GLANCE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	25	7	.781	—
Toronto	19	8	.704	3½
New York	16	13	.552	7½
Philadelphia	14	14	.500	9
Brooklyn	11	17	.393	12

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	16	13	.552	—
Miami	15	14	.517	1
Orlando	11	19	.367	5½
Charlotte	10	19	.345	6
Atlanta	6	23	.207	10

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	22	8	.733	—
Indiana	16	13	.552	5½
Detroit	16	13	.552	5½
Milwaukee	15	13	.536	6
Chicago	8	20	.286	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	24	4	.857	—
San Antonio	20	10	.667	5
New Orleans	15	15	.500	10
Memphis	9	21	.300	16
Dallas	8	22	.267	17

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	17	13	.567	—
Portland	16	13	.552	½
Denver	16	13	.552	½
Oklahoma City	14	15	.483	2½
Utah	14	16	.467	3

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	23	6	.793	—
L.A. Clippers	11	17	.393	11½
L.A. Lakers	10	17	.370	12
Sacramento	9	19	.321	13½
Phoenix	10	21	.323	14

Saturday's Scores

Portland 93, Charlotte 91
Cleveland 109, Utah 100
New York 111, Oklahoma City 96
Houston 115, Milwaukee 111
Miami 90, L.A. Clippers 85
Phoenix 108, Minnesota 106
San Antonio 98, Dallas 96
Boston 102, Memphis 93

Today's Games

Sacramento at Toronto, 2:30 p.m.
Orlando at Detroit, 3 p.m.
Cleveland at Washington, 5 p.m.
Indiana at Brooklyn, 3 p.m.

Spurs close on 13-0 run to rally past Mavericks, 98-96

By Raul Dominguez
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 points and 14 rebounds and the San Antonio Spurs scored the final 13 points of the game, rallying for a 98-96 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Saturday night.

Maxi Kleber had 21 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 19 for Dallas in the final regular season matchup between the Southwest Division rivals.

Kleber's 3-pointer gave Dallas a 96-85 lead with 4:11 remaining, but the Spurs held them scoreless the remainder of the game.

Aldridge's fall-away, 11-foot jumper tied the game at 96 with 23.4 seconds remaining and Manu Ginobili's driving layup with 3.1 seconds was the game-winning shot.

Aldridge had his 12th double-double of the season to help offset the absences of starters Kawhi Leonard, Tony Parker and Danny Green.

Coming off a 15-point blowout in Houston on Friday night, San Antonio was able to avoid its third straight loss.

The Spurs missed their first five shots, all short jumpers from Aldridge and Pau Gasol, on their way to shooting 30 percent in the opening quarter.

The Mavericks took advantage, charging to a 31-18 lead.

San Antonio's reserves reversed the team's fortunes in the third quarter.

Davis Bertans finished with 13 points and Ginobili added 12 off the bench.

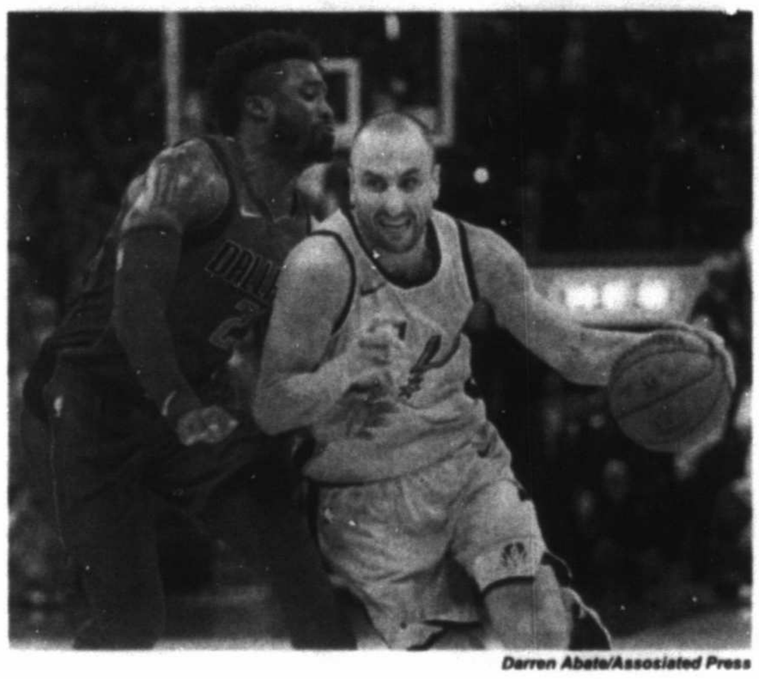
The Spurs closed within 72-68 after trailing by as many as 16 points to help set up the late-game heroics.

Dallas was without five players, including rookie point guard Dennis Smith Jr.

Tip-ins

Mavericks: Smith missed a fifth straight game with a strained left hip. Also sitting out were Seth Curry (stress reaction, left tibia), Dorian Finney-Smith (left quadriceps tendinitis), Josh McRoberts (low extremity injury), and Nerlens Noel (left thumb). ... Dallas is 2-12 on the road after going 12-29 away from home last season. . The Mavericks are 5-1 when scoring at least 30 points in the first quarter. . Dallas has made 10-plus 3-pointers in 22 of their first 30 games this season. . Dallas has 12 turnovers or less in seven straight games and nine of its last 10.

Spurs: Leonard and Parker sat out the second game of a back-to-back as part of their recovery from quadriceps injuries that kept both out for much of the season. . Green was scratched from the lineup an hour before the game due to tightness in his left groin. . San Antonio is 6-7 in back-to-back games this season, losing both games once this season.



Darren Abate/Associated Press

San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili drives past Dallas Mavericks guard Wesley Matthews to score the game-winning basket in the closing seconds Saturday in San Antonio. San Antonio won 98-96.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCORES

Men

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas 88, Troy 63
Incarnate Word 77, UMKC 73
Texas 75, Louisiana Tech 60
Texas Tech 73, Rice 53
Tulsa 80, Manhattan 66
UTSA 95, Bethany (KS) 67

SOUTH

Arkansas St. 84, FAU 63
Auburn 76, Middle Tennessee 70
Belmont 79, Pepperdine 62
Clemson 71, Florida 69
Coastal Carolina 83, Mortimer 70
Cornell 69, Longwood 62
Grambling St. 68, SE Louisiana 67
Illinois St. 101, Mississippi 97, OT
Jacksonville St. 77, SC-Upstate 61
James Madison 76, FIU 67
Kennesaw St. 81, Bethune-Cookman 74
Kentucky 93, Virginia Tech 86
LSU-Shreveport 85, Northwestern St. 84
Liberty 96, Kentucky Christian 40
Louisiana-Lafayette 87, New Orleans 65
Louisville 81, Memphis 72
Marshall 99, Ohio 96, OT
Mississippi St. 92, UT Martin 61
Murray St. 100, Marist 63
Niagara 85, Norfolk St. 82
Nicholls 92, Culver-Stockton 51
Oklahoma St. 71, Florida St. 70
Old Roberts 89, Florida Gulf Coast 84
SC State 93, Jacksonville 74
South Alabama 63, E. Illinois 52
Southern Miss. 75, William Carey 58
Stephen F. Austin 83, LSU 82
The Citadel 110, Point University 66
UAB 93, Alabama A&M 59
UNC-Greensboro 81, NC State 76
VCU 85, Bucknell 79
Virginia 80, Davidson 60
W. Kentucky 81, Indiana St. 65
Winthrop 89, Alabama St. 81

FAR WEST

Arizona 89, New Mexico 73
CS Bakersfield 85, Georgia Southern 53
California 95, Cal St.-Fullerton 89, OT
Cincinnati 77, UCLA 63
E. Michigan 85, Long Beach St. 80
Gonzaga 89, North Dakota 65, OT
Oregon 88, Fresno St. 61
Portland St. 116, Linfield College 71
S. Utah 86, Cent. Michigan 80
Saint Mary's (Cal.) 73, UC Irvine 59
Utah St. 98, Life Pacific College 62
Washington St. 73, IUPUI 59
Weber St. 96, Ark.-Pine Bluff 74

MIDWEST

Akron 81, MVSU 69
Bradley 84, Chicago St. 58
Dayton 88, Georgia St. 65, OT
Evansville 78, Austin Peay 74, OT
Fort Wayne 89, Stetson 84
Green Bay 86, UW-Parkside 69
Indiana 90, Notre Dame 77, OT
Iowa 90, Drake 64
Iowa St. 76, N. Iowa 65
Kansas 73, Nebraska 72
Kansas St. 69, SE Missouri 71
Michigan 90, Detroit 58
Michigan St. 86, Oakland 73
Milwaukee 73, Loyola of Chicago 56
Missouri 85, North Florida 51
New Mexico St. 74, Illinois 69
Northwestern 62, DePaul 60
Ohio 78, W. Carolina 60
Oklahoma 91, Wichita St. 85
Purdue 82, Butler 67
Texas-Arlington 86, Rio Grande 65
Wright St. 77, Toledo 69
Xavier 68, ETSU 66

EAST

Albany (NY) 68, Canisius 55
Buffalo 86, Robert Morris 70
Miami 59, George Washington 50
NJIT 71, Fairleigh Dickinson 68
New Hampshire 111, Lyndon State 37
Pittsburgh 72, Delaware St. 51
Rhode Island 68, Col. of Charleston 62
Rider 90, Wagner 84, OT
Rutgers 71, Seton Hall 65
St. Bonaventure 81, Vermont 79
St. Francis Brooklyn 88, SUNY Maritime 67
Syracuse 86, Georgetown 79, OT
Temple 63, Drexel 60
UMass 72, Georgia 62

Top 25 Fared

1. Villanova (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Hofstra, Friday.
2. Michigan State (10-1) beat Oakland 89-73. Next: vs. Houston Baptist, Monday.
3. Wichita State (9-2) lost to Oklahoma 91-82. Next: vs. Arkansas State, Tuesday.
4. Duke (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Evansville, Wednesday.
5. Arizona State (9-0) did not play. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Sunday.
6. Miami (9-0) beat George Washington 59-56. Next: at Hawaii, Friday.
7. North Carolina (9-1) did not play. Next: at No. 20 Tennessee, Sunday.
8. Kentucky (9-1) beat Virginia Tech 93-86. Next: vs. UCLA, Saturday.
9. Texas A&M (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Northern Kentucky, Tuesday.
10. Xavier (10-1) beat ETSU 68-66. Next: vs. Marshall, Tuesday.
11. West Virginia (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Coppin State, Wednesday.
12. Gonzaga (9-2) beat North Dakota 89-63, OT. Next: vs. IUPUI, Monday.
13. Kansas (8-2) beat Nebraska 73-72. Next: vs. Omaha, Monday.
14. TCU (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Southern, Monday.
15. Seton Hall (9-2) lost to Rutgers 71-65. Next: vs. Wagner, Wednesday.
16. Virginia (9-1) beat Davidson 80-60. Next: vs. Savannah State, Tuesday.
17. Purdue (11-2) beat Butler 82-67. Next: vs. Tennessee State, Thursday.
18. Notre Dame (8-3) lost to Indiana 80-77, OT. Next: vs. Dartmouth, Tuesday.
19. Florida State (9-1) lost to Oklahoma State 71-70. Next: vs. Charleston Southern, Monday.
20. Tennessee (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 North Carolina, Sunday.
21. Baylor (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Savannah State, Sunday.
22. Florida (6-4) lost to Clemson 71-69. Next: vs. James Madison, Wednesday.
23. Arizona (8-3) beat New Mexico 89-73. Next: vs. North Dakota State, Monday.
24. Texas Tech (9-1) beat Rice 73-53. Next: vs. FAU, Tuesday.
25. Cincinnati (9-2) beat UCLA 77-63. Next: vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Tuesday.

Women

SOUTHWEST

Abilene Christian 88, Midwestern State 67
Arkansas St. 76, Grambling St. 56
Oklahoma 105, New Mexico 63
Stephen F. Austin 63, Texas A&M-Commerce 61

SOUTH

Appalachian St. 56, Marshall 54
Furman 70, Ohio 68
Liberty 105, Shippensburg 43
Memphis 71, Vanderbilt 60
Michigan St. 83, ETSU 74
NC State 76, Elon 57
SC State 75, W. Carolina 45
South Alabama 64, Cent. Arkansas 43
UNC-Asheville 76, SC-Upstate 70
UNC-Wilmington 85, Wofford 60
Virginia Tech 98, High Point 63
W. Kentucky 66, Stetson 58

FAR WEST

CS Bakersfield 72, Whittier College 36
Cal St.-Fullerton 74, Antelope Valley College 49
California 70, BYU 45
Denver 74, Utah St. 72
Idaho St. 70, Utah Valley 58
Nevada 52, Santa Clara 41
Oregon St. 74, UC Santa Barbara 49
Portland St. 82, UC Irvine 72
San Diego 76, UTSA 69
Stanford 74, UNLV 33

MIDWEST

Akron 93, Ohio Christian 33
Cal Poly 73, N. Dakota St. 69
Green Bay 72, Bradley 40
IL-Chicago 86, Evansville 77
Illinois 58, Austin Peay 47
Kansas St. 66, UALR 51
Michigan 77, Fort Wayne 45
Missouri St. 90, Northwestern 59
Tulsa 64, South Dakota 61
Wichita St. 87, Akron St. 46
Youngstown St. 69, N. Arizona 67

EAST

Army 107, St. Joseph's (Me) 46
Manhattan 72, LIU Brooklyn 38
Md.-Eastern Shore 97, Wesley (DE) 30
Morehead St. 76, Canisius 52
Oakland 79, Cornell 77
Rider 79, NJIT 64
Robert Morris 67, Clarion 60
Rutgers 75, Houston 57
St. Francis Brooklyn 72, Iona 63
Temple 83, Marist 77
West Virginia 75, Radford 55

Top 25 Fared

1. UConn (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Tuesday.
2. Notre Dame (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. DePaul, Sunday.
3. Louisville (10-0) did not play. Next: at Kentucky, Sunday.
4. South Carolina (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Savannah State, Sunday.
5. Mississippi State (10-0) did not play. Next: vs. Maine, Sunday.
6. Baylor (9-1) did not play. Next: at Nicholls State, Monday.
7. Tennessee (10-0) did not play. Next: at Long Beach State, Sunday.
8. Texas (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 12 Florida State, Sunday.
9. Oregon (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi, Sunday.
10. West Virginia (10-0) beat Radford 75-55. Next: vs. Morgan State, Monday.
11. UCLA (7-2) did not play. Next: at Seton Hall, Sunday.
12. Florida State (10-0) did not play. Next: at No. 8 Texas, Sunday.
13. Ohio State (10-2) did not play. Next: at Cincinnati, Sunday.
14. Duke (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Maine, Tuesday.
15. Maryland (10-2) did not play. Next: at Coppin State, Wednesday.
16. Missouri (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Indiana, Sunday.
17. Oregon State (8-2) beat UC Santa Barbara 74-49. Next: vs. UC Davis, Wednesday.
18. Stanford (6-4) beat UNLV 74-53. Next: vs. Western Illinois, Monday.
19. Texas A&M (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Hawaii, Wednesday.
20. Villanova (9-0) did not play. Next: at La Salle, Wednesday.
21. Green Bay (9-1) beat Bradley 72-40. Next: vs. Northwestern, Tuesday.
22. South Florida (8-2) did not play. Next: at FAU, Sunday.
23. Michigan (10-2) beat Fort Wayne 77-45. Next: vs. Delaware State, Thursday.
24. California (8-2) beat BYU 70-45. Next: at Kentucky, Thursday.
25. Iowa (10-1) did not play. Next: at Northern Iowa, Sunday.

Jaguars can clinch playoff berth vs Texans

By Mark Long
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Veteran tight end Marcedes Lewis understands the position the Jacksonville Jaguars are in, maybe even better than anyone.

Lewis is the lone holdover from Jacksonville's last playoff team a decade ago. Lewis and the Jaguars lost 102 of 144 games over the nine seasons between 2007 and 2017.

So the 12th-year pro has a genuine appreciation for being oh-so-close to returning to the postseason. The Jaguars (9-4) have a clear path to the playoffs: They can clinch a spot by beating Houston (4-9) at home Sunday.

No help needed. No scoreboard watching necessary. No confusing scenarios.

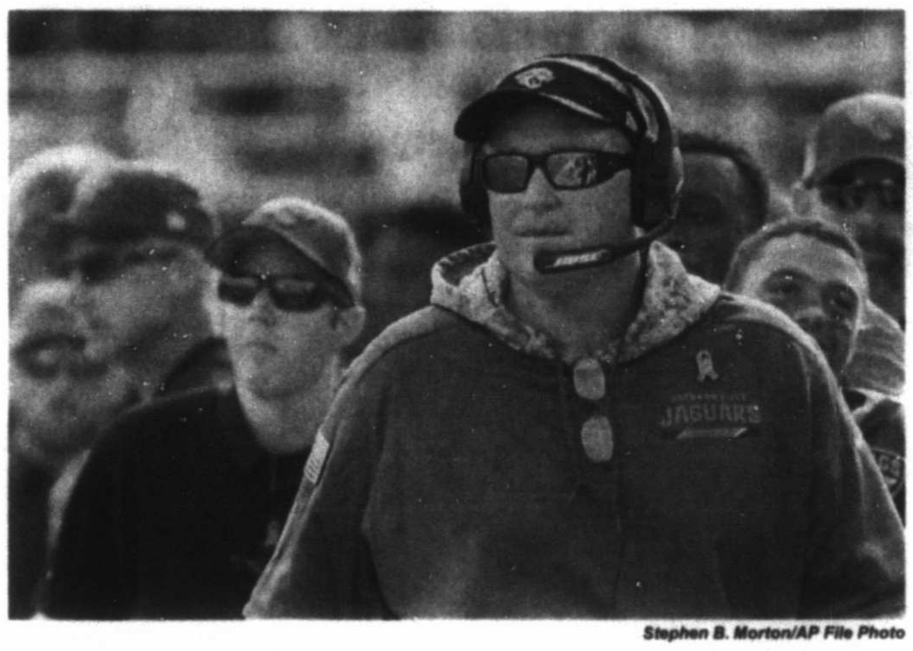
Win and they're in.

"You've got to take advantage of these situations," Lewis said. "It doesn't just happen. When you have the opportunity to do something like this, you want to be paying close attention to details and just trying to make sure that you're doing everything that you have to do to get it done because you won't be able to get it back."

Jacksonville has won six of its last seven games, including an eye-opening, 30-24 victory against perennial playoff contender Seattle last week. The Jaguars controlled the game throughout, and aside from a few big plays by quarterback Russell Wilson late, were nearly flawless.

Now, they're atop the AFC South and closing in on a playoff berth.

"It feels good to be playing for something in December and to still be getting better," Lewis said. "We still haven't played our perfect game yet, and that's scary. I think we're getting better at the right time."



Stephen B. Morton/AP File Photo

Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Doug Marrone walks the sideline during the second half against the Los Angeles Chargers on Nov. 12 in Jacksonville, Fla. The Jaguars host the Houston Texans today and can clinch a playoff spot with a victory. It would be Jacksonville's first postseason berth since 2007.

Jacksonville's surprising season started with a 29-7 victory at Houston.

The Jags used a 10-sack performance to dominate the Texans in the opener and set the tone for the season. Injury-ravaged Houston will look far from the same in the rematch.

Third-string quarterback T.J. Yates will make his first start since Dec. 20, 2015, at Indianapolis. Yates is replacing Tom Savage (concussion), who regained the starting role after dynamic rookie Deshaun Watson (knee) was lost for the season.

"Yeah, there's no doubt that our game plan this week, in many ways, will be different than maybe what you've seen the past few weeks," Texans coach Bill O'Brien said. "There's going to be a lot of differences to it. ... There's all kinds of things that we have to deal with, but we'll definitely try to put together as good a game plan as we can to deal with all that."

The top priority is finding a way to block the Jaguars, who lead the league with 47 sacks. Houston has allowed 41, fourth most in the NFL.

"It's definitely going to be a point of emphasis for us," Yates said. "We know what type of defense we're going up against and how talented they are up front and in the back end, so we have to be sharp. Definitely the ball has to come out quick."

Here are some other things to know about the Texans and Jaguars:

CLOWNEY'S WORK: Houston defensive end Jadeveon Clowney has put together the best season of his career. It comes with stars J.J. Watt and Whitney Mercilus out for the season. The top overall pick in the 2014 draft has shaken off the injury-filled start to his career and is second in the NFL with a career-high 20 tackles for losses. He also leads the Texans with a career-best nine sacks.

"He's a great player, one of the best players in the league at his position, and he can literally, by himself, take over a game," Jaguars coach Doug Marrone said. "He can change the course of a game."

KEY MATCHUP: Texans receiver DeAndre Hopkins and Jaguars cornerback Jalen Ramsey are the matchup to watch. Ramsey shadowed Hopkins in the opener, holding him to seven catches for 55 yards and a touchdown, and is expected to do the same Sunday.

"Highest-paid receiver, so that should mean you're one of the top receivers in the league," Ramsey said. "I would agree and say he is. He's been balling, doing his thing."

TOUCHDOWN HAUL: Hopkins leads the NFL and has tied a career high and franchise record with 11 touchdown receptions despite playing with three quarterbacks. The QB carousel is nothing new for Hopkins, who has played with nine different guys at the position since he was drafted in 2013.

"It's a challenge for me to be able to go out and play with a quarterback who hasn't played with us often just to show the world that it doesn't mean that you have to have a Pro Bowl quarterback or a 100 percent-rated quarterback to get the job done at the wide receiver position," he said. "So to me it's a challenge, and I love it."

TROY

From 1C

escape the unabated rush of Troy defensive tackle Jamal Stadom. Linebacker Sam Lebbie recovered inside the UNT 20. Anderson scored from 2 yards out a couple plays later.

The takeaway

Troy: Troy got one vote in the last AP Poll, but might get more after arguably the greatest season in program history. One of the Trojans' 11 victories came on the road against an LSU team that has a chance to finish with 10 wins.

North Texas: The Mean Green's struggles on defense this season meant its offense would need a clean, efficient performance to beat Troy. Not only was UNT turnover-prone, but Fine was sacked six times as the Mean Green finished with minus-8 yards rushing.

Tough break

A lingering knee injury denied senior Troy running back Jordan Chunn a chance to set a Sun Belt Conference career record for rushing touchdowns.

Chunn was injured during the Trojans' triumph over Arkansas State on Dec. 2, but Troy did not reveal his status for the bowl game until kickoff.

Chunn entered the game with 47 career rushing TDs, one short of the all-time Sun Belt record of 48 set by Tyrell Fenroy of Louisiana-Lafayette in 2008.

Up next

Troy's offense will have to move forward without its quarterback or top running back, with Silvers and Chunn both outgoing seniors. Their replacements will debut in Troy's 2018 opener on Sept. 1 at home against Boise State.

North Texas has a relatively young squad with only a handful of senior starters. UNT will have to replace starters at safety, defensive end, linebacker and right tackle. North Texas opens 2018 at home on Sept. 1 in a Dallas-area matchup with SMU.

COWBOYS

From 1C

absence because of a hamstring injury with his fifth career 20-tackle game against the Giants. The 2016 All-Pro finished with 20, including 15 solos, and recorded his first interception since 2015, his longest drought when healthy. Despite missing five games overall with hamstring issues, Lee is tied for the team lead with eight tackles for loss after getting one against New York. The Cowboys are 1-5 in games Lee missed or didn't finish because of injury.

Pressure point

The Raiders have done a much better job generating pressure the past three weeks since firing defensive coordinator Ken Norton Jr. Oakland has 12 sacks in three games under new play-caller John Pagano, nearly equaling the total of 14 in the first 10 games. Bruce Irvin leads the way with five in that span, with Khalil Mack and Denico Autry adding three each.

Dez drought

Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant has never played all 16 games without recording 100 yards receiving at least once. He's three games away from doing that. The 2014 All-Pro does have six touchdowns, including a 50-yard catch-and-run against the Giants. In his second year in 2011, Bryant didn't have a 100-yard outing but missed a game early with an injury. He had nine TDs that season.

Stepping up

The Raiders have gotten few contributions from this year's draft class with top two picks Gareon Conley and Obi Melifonwu spending most of the season on the sideline with injuries. The biggest contributor among the rookies has been an unlikely one in undrafted linebacker Nicholas Morrow, out of Division III Greenville College. Morrow has worked his way into the starting lineup and has been a key contributor on defense in a pleasant surprise for Oakland.

"I was late for OTAs and there were some days I only got two reps," he said. "I started off training camp in group four. My expectations have been way more than exceeded. I'm definitely blessed."

COLLEGE BOWL ROUNDUP

LAS VEGAS BOWL
NO. 25 BOISE STATE 38
OREGON 28

LAS VEGAS — Cedrick Wilson caught 10 passes for 221 yards and a touchdown, Kekaula Kaniho returned an interception 53 yards for a score and No. 25 Boise State beat Oregon 38-28 in the Las Vegas Bowl on Saturday.

Brett Rypien threw for 362 yards and two touchdown passes — with two interceptions — to help the Broncos (11-3) break a three-game losing streak against Power 5 opposition. Ryan Wolpin rushed for two touchdowns.

Troy Dye and Tyree Robinson each scored a defensive touchdown, and Justin Herbert was 26 of 36 passing for 233 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions for the Ducks (7-6) in new head coach Mario Cristobal's debut.

Boise State forced four turnovers in the first half, taking a 14-0 lead in the first quarter on Wolpin's 1-yard touchdown run and Rypien's 26-yard scoring pass to Wilson. Haden Hoggarth added a 39-yard field goal before an off-balance Herbert heaved a pass toward the sideline that was easily picked off and run back by Kaniho, who also had a strip-sack.

CURE BOWL
GEORGIA STATE 27
WESTERN KENTUCKY 17

ORLANDO, Fla. — Conner Manning threw for 276 yards and a touchdown to lead Georgia State to a winning record with the first bowl victory in the school's eight-year football history.

Manning threw a 42-yard touchdown pass pass to Roger Carter, Demarcus Kirk scored on a 26-yard run, and Kyler Neal finished a 16-play drive consuming nine minutes of the fourth quarter with a 1-yard scoring run that put Georgia State (7-5) up 27-10.

Mike White had TD passes of 54 and 4 yards to Deon Yelder and finished with 351 yards for Western Kentucky (6-7). Yelder had five receptions for 112 yards.

NEW MEXICO BOWL
MARSHALL 31
COLORADO STATE 28

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Kalon Davis rushed for 141 yards, including a 68-yard touchdown run, and Marshall had two other big scoring plays.

Chase Litton threw for 262 yards and two touchdowns, helping the Thundering Herd (8-5) hold off the Rams (7-6). Tyre Brady had 165 yards receiving and gave the Thundering Herd the lead in the second quarter with a 76-yard touchdown reception. Tyler King added a 90-yard rushing touchdown.

The Thundering Herd are 11-2 in bowl games — 5-0 under current head coach Doc Holliday.

Nick Stevens threw for 320 yards and ran for two touchdowns for the Rams, but was sacked five times. Olabisi Johnson had 119 yards receiving.

Andrew Krech/News & Record via AP

North Carolina A&T's Isaiah Hicklin celebrates the team's victory over Grambling State in the Celebration Bowl NCAA college football game Saturday, in Atlanta.

CELEBRATION BOWL
NORTH CAROLINA A&T 21
GRAMBLING STATE 14

ATLANTA — Lamar Raynard scored on a 1-yard sneak with 38 seconds left and unbeaten North Carolina A&T won its second Celebration Bowl in three years.

N.C. A&T (12-0) won its fourth Historically Black College and University national championship. In 2015, the Aggies beat Alcorn State in the first Celebration Bowl. They also won titles in 1990 and 1999.

Raynard completed 23 of 43 passes for 225 yards and a touchdown.

Grambling (11-2) beat North Carolina Central 10-9 last year in the title game.

NFL ROUNDUP

CHIEFS 30
CHARGERS 13

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Alex Smith threw for 231 yards and two touchdowns, Kareem Hunt ran for 155 yards and a score, and the Kansas City Chiefs routed the turnover-prone Los Angeles Chargers 30-13 on Saturday night to seize control of the AFC West.

Hunt also had a TD catch for the Chiefs (8-6), whose eighth straight win over the Chargers all but sewed up the division and a spot in the playoffs. The only way Kansas City can squander it is by losing its last two games and the Chargers or Oakland Raiders winning out.

The Chargers (7-7) led 13-10 early in the second half, but Philip Rivers threw three interceptions — two of them to Marcus Peters — and Austin Ekeler coughed up a fumble down the stretch.

That ended their four-game win streak and quite possibly their playoff hopes.

Rivers finished with 221 yards passing and a touchdown, but has thrown 13 interceptions during the Chargers' losing streak to the Chiefs. Melvin Gordon added 78 yards rushing and a score.

LIONS 20
BEARS 10

DETROIT — Matthew Stafford threw two touchdown passes and avoided mistakes, allowing Detroit to stay in the playoff picture with the victory over Chicago.

Detroit (8-6) has won two straight and needs to close the regular season with two more wins to keep its postseason hopes alive.

The Bears (4-10) have lost six of seven, sealing a third season with double-digit losses in three years under embattled coach John Fox.

Stafford threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to TJ Jones with 6:10 left in the first half after Fox chose to punt on fourth-and-1 from the Chicago 45. He threw an 8-yard pass to Eric Ebron for a 20-3 lead early in the third quarter after Darius Slay's first of two interceptions in the game.

Stafford was 25 of 33 for 237 yards and didn't turn the ball over for the first time since Week 11.

The Lions led 13-0 before Theo Riddick fumbled late in the first half and Chicago took advantage with Mike Nugent's 41-yard field goal 2 seconds before halftime.

Chicago rookie Mitchell Trubisky had season highs in completions (31), attempts (46), yards passing (314) and interceptions (three) including one to safety Quandre Diggs in the end zone early in the fourth.

Trubisky threw a 9-yard TD pass to Benny Cunningham to make it 20-10 with 2:32 left. The Bears got the ball back 25 seconds later on their 6 and moved the ball to the Detroit 25 before Slay's second interception ended their comeback hopes.

NFL GLANCE

Standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	368	259
Buffalo	7	6	0	.538	240	290
Miami	6	7	0	.462	238	318
N.Y. Jets	5	8	0	.385	266	311
South						
Jacksonville	9	4	0	.692	320	202
Tennessee	8	5	0	.615	279	234
Houston	4	9	0	.308	212	335
Indianapolis	3	11	0	.214	235	368
North						
y-Pittsburgh	11	2	0	.846	320	251
Baltimore	7	6	0	.538	318	248
Cincinnati	5	8	0	.385	226	271
Cleveland	0	13	0	.000	197	335
West						
Kansas City	8	6	0	.571	309	302
L.A. Chargers	7	7	0	.500	311	256
Oakland	6	7	0	.462	264	304
Denver	5	9	0	.357	254	328

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Philadelphia	11	2	0	.846	404	250
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	316	284
Washington	5	8	0	.385	285	344
N.Y. Giants	2	11	0	.154	199	321
South						
New Orleans	9	4	0	.692	370	253
Carolina	9	4	0	.692	309	202
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	294	261
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	264	312
North						
Minnesota	10	3	0	.769	309	235
Detroit	8	6	0	.571	358	339
Green Bay	7	6	0	.538	285	302
Chicago	4	10	0	.286	254	294
West						
L.A. Rams	9	4	0	.692	356	265
Seattle	8	5	0	.615	314	252
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	231	317
San Francisco	3	10	0	.231	226	314

y-clinched division

Scores & Schedule

Thursday's Score

Denver 25, Indianapolis 13

Saturday's Games

Detroit 20, Chicago 10

Kansas City 30, L.A. Chargers 13

Today's Games

Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, noon

Cincinnati at Minnesota, noon

Houston at Jacksonville, noon

Arizona at Washington, noon

N.Y. Jets at New Orleans, noon

Miami at Buffalo, noon

Green Bay at Carolina, noon

Baltimore at Cleveland, noon

L.A. Rams at Seattle, 5:05 p.m.

New England at Pittsburgh, 9:25 p.m.

Tennessee at San Francisco, 9:25 p.m.

Dallas at Oakland, 7:30 p.m.

Monday's Game

Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.

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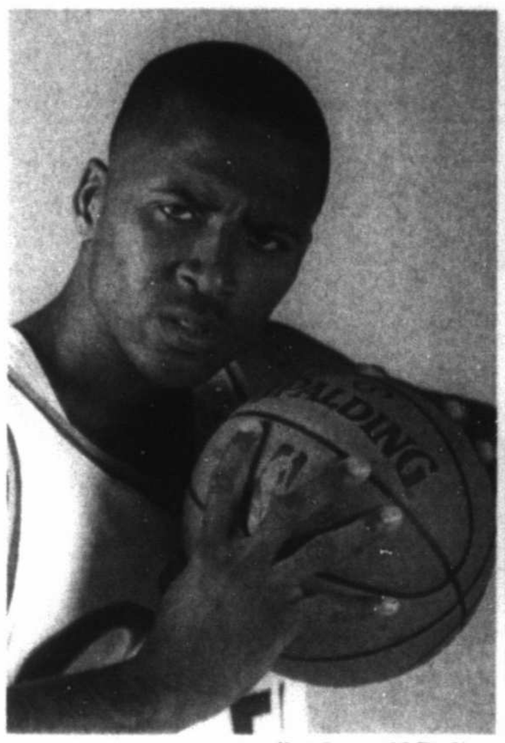

Mark Duncan/AP File Photo

Cleveland Cavaliers' Lorenzen Wright poses at media day in 2008 in Independence, Ohio. Authorities say the ex-wife of Wright has been charged with first-degree murder in his death more than seven years ago. Memphis Police Director Michael Rallings said Saturday that Sherra Wright has been charged in the death of her ex-husband, a Memphis native who played for five teams over 13 seasons as a forward and center in the NBA. Police in Riverside County, California, arrested Sherra Wright on Friday night on a fugitive from justice warrant, online records show.

Ex-wife of Lorenzen Wright charged with murder in 2010 death

By Adrian Sainz
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The ex-wife of former NBA player Lorenzen Wright has been charged in his slaying, more than seven years after his body was found in a field in his hometown of Memphis.

Memphis Police Director Michael Rallings said Saturday that Sherra Wright has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of Lorenzen Wright, who played for five teams over 13 seasons as a forward and center in the NBA.

Police and federal marshals in Riverside County, California, arrested 46-year-old Sherra Wright on Friday night on a fugitive from justice warrant, online records show.

Wright's decomposing body was found in suburban Memphis on July 28, 2010 — 10 days after the 34-year-old was reported missing. He was shot multiple times. The seven-year investigation into his death has been one of the Memphis Police Department's most high-profile unsolved cases.

The case had a break earlier this month, when Billy R. Turner was indicted on a first-degree murder charge Dec. 5 in Wright's death. Turner has pleaded not guilty. Media reports have said Turner, a landscaper, and Sherra Wright attended the same church.

Rallings would not discuss the connection between Turner and Wright, but he said police were confident they knew each other.

A release from the Shelby County District Attorney's office says Turner and Sherra Wright conspired to kill Lorenzen Wright. Sherra Wright has a court hearing Monday in California. Officials were not certain Saturday when she would be returned to Memphis.

Police said last month that they had found a gun used in the killing in a lake near Walnut, Mississippi, about 75 miles east of Memphis.

"The weapon was key," Rallings said.

The District Attorney's office said the first attempt at killing Wright occurred between April and July 2010 and involved Turner traveling to Wright's home near Atlanta. The indictment says Sherra Wright and Turner acquired firearms and recruited a co-conspirator, who was not named.

Rallings said police are looking at other people in the investigation.

Sherra Wright received $1 million from her ex-husband's life insurance policy. She agreed to a settlement in 2014 in a court dispute over how she spent the insurance money meant to benefit their six children, The Commercial Appeal has reported.

Cabrera & Son take lead in Father-Son Challenge

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Two-time major champion Angel Cabrera and Angel Cabrera Jr. birdied their last three holes for a 13-under 59 to take a one-shot lead Saturday in the PNC Father-Son Challenge.

Cabrera, a Masters and U.S. Open champion, is making his debut in this popular 36-hole scramble. His son said he practiced hard for 10 days and was certain playing front of cameras. What helped put him at ease was watching his father make so many putts.

"We combined very well," Cabrera said. "When I hit a bad shot, he hit a good one. That's the key."

They had a one-shot lead over Mark O'Meara and Shaun O'Meara, who are playing for the first time. That included a birdie on the last hole, which O'Meara attributed to the strength of his son.

"My little man hit it 58 yards by me on the 18th," said O'Meara, the Masters and British Open champion in 1998. "It's a little easier coming in with a 6-iron."

Defending champions David Duval and Nick Karavites rallying over the back nine at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club for a 61. They are trying to become the first father-son team to repeat as winners since Bernhard and Stefan Langer in 2006. Larry Nelson won two years in a row in 2007 and 2008, but with different sons.

"I'd imagine we have to break 60 tomorrow to have a chance to win, but hey, stranger things have happened," Duval said. "I've even one it myself."

Duval shot 59 at the Bob Hope Classic to win in 1999 on his way to reaching No. 1 in the world that year.

Duval and his stepson were tied with Bernhard Langer and 17-year-old Jason Langer, who made two eagles on the last five holes. This Langer tandem won in 2014.

Jack Nicklaus, playing with grandson G.T., opened with a 68.

Gene J. Puskar/AP File Photo

Los Angeles Dodgers' Matt Kemp in the dugout before a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in 2014 in Pittsburgh.

Kemp back in LA, Gonzalez out in 5-player deal with Braves

By Beth Harris
Associated Press

Matt Kemp is returning to the place where he began his major league career, reacquired by the Los Angeles Dodgers on Saturday as part of a five-player trade with the Atlanta Braves that creates more financial flexibility for the reigning NL champions.

The Dodgers sent first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, oft-injured starting pitchers Scott Kazmir and Brandon McCarthy, infielder Charlie Culberson and cash to Atlanta for the 33-year-old Kemp.

Gonzalez agreed to waive his no-trade clause after receiving assurance from the Braves that he would be designated for assignment since they are already set at first base with Freddie Freeman.

"This allows him the opportunity to go and find some playing time," new Braves general manager Alex Anthopoulos said.

After sitting on the sidelines during the recent winter meetings, the Dodgers moved quickly to dump nearly $50 million in salary committed to Gonzalez, Kazmir and McCarthy for 2018. Kemp is owed about $43 million over the next two seasons.

Los Angeles was looking to reduce baseball's highest payroll of $240 million last season as a way of lowering exposure to higher luxury taxes.

The deal made sense for the Braves, too, since the players they acquired all have expiring contracts.

"It puts us in an even greater financial position going forward and going into next offseason as well," said Anthopoulos, who was hired from the Dodgers.

Kemp played for the Dodgers from 2006-14, hitting 182 home runs, fourth-most in Los Angeles history. The outfielder hit .276 with 19 homers, 64 RBIs and 23 doubles in 115 games last season with the Braves.

Moving Kemp opens up a potential roster spot for top Braves prospect Ronald Acuna, who turns 20 on Monday. He was the most valuable player of the Arizona Fall League and Baseball America's minor league player of the year.

"We expect Ronald Acuna to be a very good player for a very long time," Anthopoulos said. "When he's ready to go, we're going to look to make room for him and certainly a deal like this won't hurt."

The 35-year-old Gonzalez helped the Dodgers win five straight NL West division titles after being acquired from the Red Sox in August 2012. He was an All-Star in 2015 and led the NL in RBIs in 2014, but went on the disabled list with a herniated disk in his back last season for the first time in his career. He was usurped at first base by NL Rookie of the Year Cody Bellinger.

Gonzalez is owed $21.5 million in the final year of a $154 million, seven-year contract that the Dodgers absorbed in the 2012 trade with Boston.

Kazmir didn't pitch last season because of a hip injury, one of many in his career. The 33-year-old lefthander went 10-6 with a 4.56 ERA in 26 starts in 2016, his first with the Dodgers. He is owed $15 million in 2018.

"I spoke to him and he's pretty encouraged and excited about the work he's been able to do in the offseason, so we're excited to get a look at him in camp," Anthopoulos said. "If we can get him back and he can bounce back, there's certainly some upside there."

McCarthy was 11-7 with a 4.51 ERA in 29 starts over three seasons with the Dodgers. The 34-year-old right-hander missed most of 2015 and 2016 after undergoing Tommy John surgery. He went on the DL three times last season, when he was limited to 19 appearances and went 6-4 with a 3.98 ERA.

McCarthy was added to the Dodgers' World Series roster after missing the first two rounds. He gave up a home run in extra innings of a Game 2 loss to Houston in his only appearance. He is owed $12 million in the last year of a $48 million, four-year deal.

Anthopoulos said he sees McCarthy being in the Braves' rotation, which needs a veteran arm after not re-signing knuckleballer R.A. Dickey and releasing Bartolo Colon during last season.

"He came back at the end of the year and was on the World Series roster because of how good he looked, how good his stuff was, up to 94 (mph) and he started throwing a slider that he just added at the end of the year," Anthopoulos said. "I'm excited about him, think there is an upside to him."

Home run coaching hires hard to make from shallow pool

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

Making the home run hire seems to be more difficult than ever when it comes to college football coaches.

Silly season moved quickly this year, spinning this way and that over a frenetic couple of weeks. UCLA and Texas A&M both made a splash by hiring Chip Kelly and Jimbo Fisher, respectively. Tennessee flailed about for two weeks before hiring Jeremy Pruitt, a promising coordinator and Nick Saban disciple.

Florida State hired Willie Taggart, and his 47-50 career record, away from Oregon. The Ducks promoted offensive coordinator Mario Cristobal, whose previous head coaching experience was four losing seasons in six years at Florida International. Mississippi also stayed in-house, taking the interim tag off Matt Luke. Nebraska (Scott Frost) and Arkansas (Chad Morris) hired coaches with a combined five years of head coaching experience.

People in the business of college football say the pool of experienced candidates has dwindled, thinned by rapid turnover and less desire among established coaches to jump from one job to another.

"Hiring has always been difficult," Penn State athletic director Sandy Barbour said. "I think the proven talent has been kind of picked over, if you will. So that puts a premium on athletic directors and institutions having a broader knowledge. All fan bases want a known, proven commodity. Name, win-the-press-conferences kind of a hire. That's not possible for everybody to do."

Media chatter, sports talk radio and message boards tend to fuel unrealistic expectations about coaching searches. The so-called carousel is constantly turning, though this year seemed unusually frantic.

Mark Long/AP File Photo

University of Florida athletic director Scott Stricklin, left, smiles as he talks to Florida's new coach Dan Mullen after Mullen arrived at the airport on Nov. 27 in Gainesville, Fla.

"What was different this year for me was a lot of premier institutions were in the market at the same time," Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick said. "I had exactly that thesis: That the pool is not deep enough to sustain this many searches and the domino effect of the searches."

The average tenure of current Power Five coaches, including the newest hires, is 4½ years. Outliers such as Kansas State's Bill Snyder (26 years leading the Wildcats) and Iowa's Kirk Ferentz (19 years with the Hawkeyes) skew those numbers. The median number of years for current coaches leading a Power Five program, including Notre Dame, is three.

Thirty-one schools have a head coach who has been at his current job for two years or less.

Florida athletic director Scott Stricklin said there is "no question" the short tenures these days have an effect amid concern "that we're not having time to really mold the next generation of coaches the right way."

"You end up making hires that are more risky," he said. "Doesn't mean they're not going to be great hires."

Stricklin moved quickly to hire one of the few proven candidates available this year in Dan Mullen, who during nine years at Mississippi State had become maybe the most successful coach in the history of the program.

It would be hard to find a Nebraska fan who is not excited about the school hiring former Cornhuskers quarterback Scott Frost. In two seasons at Central Florida, Frost took over a team that was 0-12 the year before he arrived and went 12-0 this season. After three years as an offensive coordinator at Oregon and two years as a head coach (with an 18-7 record), the 42-year-old Frost was one of the hottest commodities on the market. He profiles similarly to Tom Herman, 42, who parlayed a successful stint as Ohio State's offensive coordinator and two excellent seasons at Houston into the Texas job.

"The whole thing accelerates. I think that creates a problem," Swarbrick said. "They're great Xs and Os guys, but do they understand how to work with the university administration and how to work with donors? Do they understand how to manage young people? I worry about it, especially in football."

The days of ADs being former coaches, often football coaches, and school presidents not getting involved in athletics are long gone. Working with administrators is more crucial than ever.

That dynamic, plus the explosion of salaries, has experienced and successful coaches settling into jobs when they can.

"I don't know that the lure of cash is as big a deal as the lure of saying, 'OK, I've got stability,'" said Todd Berry, the executive director of the American Football Coaches Association and former head coach at Army and Louisiana-Monroe.

Fans of schools such as Tennessee can get frustrated when the folks in charge can't lure a successful coach from another school, but those types of hires — like Fisher jumping from Florida State to Texas A&M — are a rare exception. The more typical hire is the one Tennessee made (Pruitt, the Alabama defensive coordinator) or the one Volunteers fans revolted against — Ohio State defensive coordinator and former Rutgers coach Greg Schiano.

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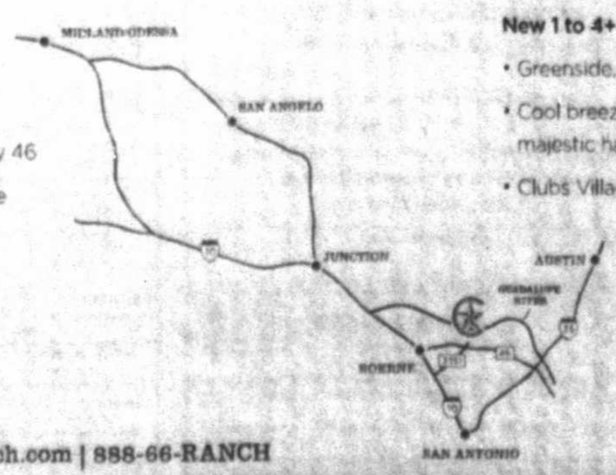

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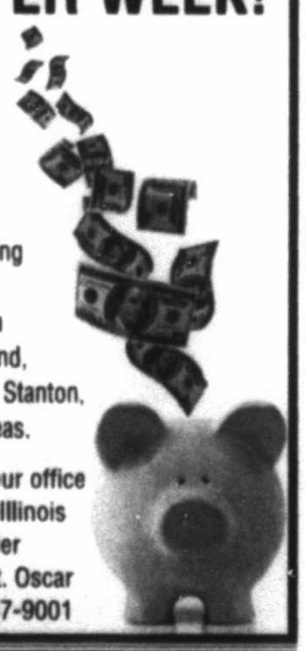

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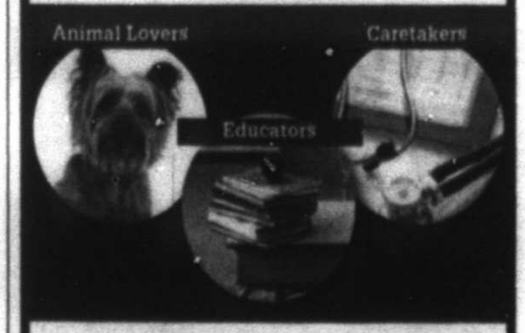

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2412 Dartmouth Dr. - $429,000

3900 Fairwood Ct. - $849,500

27 Oaklawn Park - $499,500

3534 Imperial - $214,900

2409 Seaboard - $400,000

www.RE1Midland.com to view all MLS Listings

New and Reduced Listings

3914 Baybrook Ct. - Beautiful 5BR/3LA/3.5BA. Flagstone around breathtaking Pool plus Outdoor kitchen! $850,000
5317 Quicksand Cove- Another fabulous Glenn Miller home on quiet cul de sac ! As of 12/1/17 house is expected to complete late April to early May. . Now is the time to pick granite, paint tile and carpet..... $550,000
2412 Dartmouth - Lovely 4 Bedroom/3 Bath in great neighborhood in Fair Oaks Estates..... $429,000
2409 Seaboard - Lovely 5 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath home w/hardwood floors and tile flooring throughout plus fabulous POOL!..... $400,000
4606 Meadowwood Ct.-Fantastic 3BR/2.5BA patio home with open plan and wonderful living space..... $290,000
3534 Imperial - Delightful 3/2 with open kitchen/living/den plan, sequestered master new shingles being done soon, some fresh paint. 2-car garage plus 2 car carport in rear! $214,900

One Bedrooms

3330 Coldero- Nicely updated 1 bedroom, 1.5 bath loft condo complete with fireplace, patio w/storage. Seller leaving refrigerator plus washer and dryer. Very close to the lovely pool area and clubhouse..... O/C...$90,000
4700 Boulder Dr - Lovely 1 Bedroom/1 Bath condo in Skyline Terrace w/community pool..... SOLD...$40,000

Two Bedrooms

601 George Ct -Spacious well maintained 2BR/1.5BA Townhome w/downstairs 1/2 bath. Low maintenance, small patio and amazing pool, glass covered assigned parking..... $99,900
4700 Boulder #201- This 2 bedroom/1.5 bath corner unit condo w/fenced backyard is move in ready! So many updates, from floors to ceiling! ..... SOLD...$80,000
4700 Boulder unit 1505-Furnished 2 story move in ready 2BR/2.5BA condo w/many updates! Washer and Dryer included! ..SOLD...$80,000

Three Bedrooms

5317 Quicksand Cove- Another Fabulous Glenn Miller home on quiet cul de sac ! As of 12/1/17 house is expected to complete late April to early May. . Now is the time to pick granite, paint tile and carpet..... $550,000
27 Oaklawn Park-Beautiful neighborhood in park-like setting! Open floor plan w/high ceilings and so many updates! Shady and lush private patio! $499,500
7500 Quail Point - Perfect Patio home!! Don't miss this lovely, move-in ready 3 bedroom home. Beautiful patio, gorgeous and complete kitchen, Spacious living area and dining room. Hurry to see!! ..... O/C...$479,500
2201 S County Rd 1064-Country living at its finest! 9.11 cr sight after GREENWOOD acres, custom farmhouse w/open floorplan, wrap around porch & TONS of storage $414,500
2409 Seaboard - Lovely 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath home w/hardwood floors and tile flooring throughout plus fabulous POOL!..... $400,000
4606 Meadowwood Ct.-Fantastic 3BR/2.5BA patio home with open plan and wonderful living space..... $290,000
3605 Seattle Dr - Top quality workmanship! Custom finishes! Beautiful granite selection, chef's kitchen w/great work space & pantry. Extra storage! Plus so much more!...Odessa $269,900
3112 Galt – Traditional Midkiff beauty with 4 BR, 3 Baths, study, vaulted living area with fireplace $265,000
4704 Crista Ln - Beautifully updated 3BR/2.5BA centrally located w/ new plank flooring, paint and huge kitchen w/island, informal & formal dining, breakfast bar. Extra storage throughout - a must see! $339,900
3256 Highcliff Dr-Totally redone modern-feel home. Walls of glass, upscale granite, lighting, flooring, backyard pool made like new. Come "oasis" be wowed! Great layout. ..... O/C...$330,000
5407 E County Rd 110-Beautiful custom TLK construction in wonderfully maintained Oakridge development. Small fenced/grassy backyard with large covered patio. A must see! ..... O/C...$325,000
2101 Haybridge Ct - Simply beautiful-Move in ready Mike Jackson patio home resale w/so many recent updates! Open, light & bright..... SOLD...$319,900
6408 F County Rd 112 -2016 Custom Built home on over 3 acres in Greenwood! Open concept, great country home, from the rod pipe entrance to the wood finishing details inside-Fabulous! $309,900
2205 Windy Ave-Loved and cared for home in "old Midland". Updated kitchen, spacious bedrooms, large yard plus extra storage! ..... SOLD...$298,000
2117 Chelsea Pl-Better than new and squeaky clean! Great plan and move in ready! 3/2 large closets, perfect kitchen and nice patio! ..... SOLD...$295,500
1700 Windy Ave- loathe your town home in Walker townhomes! Recent kitchen remodel! Granite and tile! New updated floor plan! ..SOLD...$294,000
2203 Sinclair Ave-Charming 3BR/2BA Old Midland home in Bentwater Place with beaming hardwood floors and 5 units of french doors..... O/C...$258,900

Three Bedrooms

4023 N Spring Meadow Ln - Lovely Meadow Park townhouse w/tall ceilings, tile floors, spacious rooms, open plan, lots of windows, tons of storage! Great buy! ..... SOLD...$240,000
3229 Cimarron Ave - Adorable 3/2, w/LA & DA. Great kitchen w/SS, ovens & gas range, island, dbl. pantries, & updated tile countertops, Spacious bedrooms, Large storage bldg in back..... O/C...$235,000
3001 Pointer Ln- Beautifully designed, quality constructed, brand new Townhomes on the East side of Odessa just off of Billy Hext, LOW MAINTENANCE!... Bldg 4- Unit B and Unit C for $223,500
3300 Tarpon Ave - Beautifully updated 3BR/2BA w/open floor plan in central location! Gorgeous tile, engineered hardwoods and crown molding! ..... SOLD...$215,900
3534 Imperial - Delightful 3/2 with open kitchen/living/den plan, sequestered master new shingles being done soon, some fresh paint, 2-car garage plus 2 car carport in rear! $214,900
3001 Pointer Ln -Brand new Townhomes on the East side of Odessa just off of Billy Hext,. LOW MAINTENANCE, quality constructed homes!. Bldg 4- Unit A and Unit D for $199,900
3300 Crestwood Dr - Beautiful 3 Bedroom/2 Bath home in Fairmount Park ..... SOLD...$195,000
308 Thornridge Dr -Beautifully remodeled 3/2 home w/new plank floors, granite, cabinets, lights, electrical, plumbing, windows & so much more! ..... O/C...$179,000
1600 Delmar -Beautifully remodeled home centrally located. So much new throughout! ..... SOLD...$179,000
723 Dormand Ave - Like new w/recent windows, hvac and air, granite in kitchen/baths tile flooring, upgraded electrical, Versatile floor plan. Low maintenance front yard, large backyard with concrete work and even a dog run ...O/C... $179,000
2100 W Wadley Ave #29-Spacious condo w/3 large bedrooms. Small gated back patio and open front patio/yard within walking distance of the pool. So many updates throughout $169,900
4700 Boulder Dr - Low maintenance 3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath, 2-story Townhome in Skyline Terrace Subdivision ..... SOLD...$165,000

Four Bedrooms

6024 Island Circle - Beautiful w/many waterfront views, fabulous Great Room, Sun room with telescoping glass walls that open to patio, Beautiful infinity pool/ hardwoods, granite! You'll love it!! $665,000
2513 Regency Oaks Ct - Beautiful MF! Lavy home on a cul-de-sac in Mockingbird Oaks. Wonderful Great Room, large chef's kitchen, 10' & 12' ceilings + 8' doors! WOW ..... SOLD...$250,000
1107 Castle Rock Ct - Beautiful Mark Payne resale w/open floor plan, 4BR/3BA, game room, High ceilings, granite countertops w/ kitchen, baths, utility, just a few steps away from the walking trail area in Woodland Park. Simply terrific!!! $644,000
5305 Carrington Ct - Fabulous in Green Tree North, Many Recent updates! Open versatile plan and Traditional curb appeal! A Must See! ..... SOLD...$560,000
2412 Dartmouth - Lovely 4 Bedroom/3 Bath in great neighborhood in Fair Oaks Estates..... $429,000
3100 Shell Ave-Custom home on 1/2 acre lot, 6' brick/block fencing w/monumental metal gates, shed roof, choose neighborhood w/great storage, large sunroom, outside dining area & workshop! ..... O/C...$425,000
4122 Fox Hollow Ct-Beautiful home on cul-de-sac w/many updates and wonderful floor plan! Lg. rooms w/high ceilings, kitchen has granite, dbl. ovens, gas cooktop, pantry, island & breakfast bar/room. Lg. formal & informal living w/fireplace. Huge lot! So much! $414,900
3112 Galt-Traditional Midkiff beauty in central/location close to Grotto Park and Midland Christian School, 4BR/3BA vaulted and beamed ceiling in Great Room, study, 2 Dining areas, large utility ..... O/C...$265,000
810 Trinidad Place-4 BR, 3 Bath home in Woodland Park, all granite counters, wood burn fplc, immaculate and gorgeous! SOLD...$270,000
2009 Harvard-Lovely 4BR/3BA home w/Hardwood Floors, High Ceilings, Tile Flooring and Wood Shutters SOLD...$229,000
4401 Rosewood Dr - Spacious 4BR/3BA, in-law plan w/open living, dining, Tons of storage plus lovely family yard & storage building. Hot Tub and fridge stay. So much for so little! $225,000
500 6th Dr - Beautifully maintained 4BR/2BA home in Stanton on one of the prettiest tree shaded streets!! Large living open to kitchen/dining area. Covered back patio w/big yard. $209,900
1210 Golf Course Rd - Walk to "Old Midland" home. Spacious back porch, hardwoods, 3/4 of an acre lot, pretty landscaping, even a basement ..... O/C...$240,500

Five or More Bedrooms

6025 Island Circle -Charmed home in town! Lovely throughout and perfect for family living. Gorgeous pool w/waterfall, great yard entertaining area. Pretty trees (front and back). Good view of lake..... $695,000

Five or More Bedrooms

3914 Baybrook Ct. - Beautiful 5BR/3LA/3.5BA. Flagstone around breathtaking Pool plus Outdoor kitchen! $850,000
3900 Fairwood Ct - Gorgeous updating in this 5/4.5 family home. Located on a beautiful cul-de-sac. Wonderful kitchen w/great amenities. Plus guest house! $849,500
2500 Inwood Ct - Beautiful traditional home on cul-de-sac of nice homes, w/tree-lined esplanade, giving a wide boulevard feel centrally located and convenient home suiting many lifestyles $840,000
4505 Island Circle-Impeccably maintained MF! Lavy resale in GT North! High ceilings throughout w/huge mother-in-law suite. Beautiful updates throughout...wonderful! 4 car garage w/detached 2 car plumbed for a bath. Lovely pool & lg covered patios!...O/C...$749,900
5305 Carrington Ct - Fabulous in Green Tree North, Many Recent updates! Open versatile plan and Traditional curb appeal! A Must See! ..... SOLD...$499,900

For Lease

11 Saddle Club Dr - Lovely 3 Bedrooms/2.5 Bath home for lease in Saddle Club Estates ..... monthly $3,000
1201 Florida, Midland- 3,600 sq. ft., 1,800 sq. ft. each unit, recently updated carpet, paint, fixtures. Ready for lease ..... per unit monthly $2,500
1400 Caswell St.-6,000 sq. ft. industrial/whse w/2 restrooms, paved and fenced yard. Perfect for light duty manufacturing, warehouse or storage ..... Call RB Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111

Lots, Land and Acreage

I-20, West Loop & Loop 338 in West Odessa-116.26 acres, terrific frontage. Call RB Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111 ..... $2,000,000
6101 E Hwy 349- Once in a lifetime opportunity for building a dream home or 2 on this 1.59 ac tract of land @ Midland Country Club. $700,000
5703 E. Co. Rd. 60-2784 sq. ft. w/in-law plan..... $399,900
1600 E Ingler Ave, Midland - 3.440 acres of vacant land zoned commercial $199,000
5009 Heather Ridge-nice residential lot in guard neighborhood in Saddle Club South. Perfect for many buyers. $89,000
2701 S. County Rd. 1110-Prime location 1.336 acres, to build a home that could face either Souder County Road 1110 or East County Road W $87,000

Commercial Investment Property

3000 S. Co. Rd. 1250, Midland, Tx-Includes 5 buildings on 5.052 acres.
Total of 50,036 sq. ft. ..... Call RB Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111
301 E. Lark Hwy., Odessa, Tx.-Includes 3 tracts with 3 buildings. Total square footage of 74,562 with both office buildings, warehouses, and a truck maintenance shop. ..... Call RB Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111
1400 Caswell St.-6,000 sq. ft. industrial/whse w/2 restrooms, paved and fenced yard. Perfect for light duty manufacturing, warehouse or storage. ..... Call RB Scott or Brandee Hall 682-1111
2500 W Louisiana Ave-Location...Location...Location this 45 room facility originally built in 1954 w/new additions since. $2,900,000
2211 N. County Rd. 1129-Greenwood property! 3 bdrm/2.5 bth home on 30 acres. $799,000
16001 W CR 72, Midland- 5.020 acres: 4,200 sq. ft. office built in 2015. 2 modular buildings in house overnight drivers: Perfect truck yard. $750,000
11525 W Hwy 158, Garden City-20 acres of Ranch/Pasture land w/2,200 sq. ft. home: 4 bed, 2 bath, whole house generator. $400,000
1730 FM 1936-Odessa, TX-Two warehouse/shop buildings, fenced yard, city water 480 sq. ft. office space $230,000
0 Cotton Flat Rd. -Zoned Industrial Park $100,000

Out of Town Properties

3605 Seattle Dr - Top quality workmanship! Custom finishes! Beautiful granite selection, chef's kitchen w/great work space & pantry. Extra storage! Plus so much more!...Odessa $269,900
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3001 Pointer Ln -Brand new Townhomes on the East side of Odessa just off of Billy Hext,. LOW MAINTENANCE, quality constructed homes!. Bldg 4- Unit A and Unit D for $199,900

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coldwellbanker.com

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COME SEE US @ 807 TRADEWINDS BLVD

LEGACY

432-570-8200

CALL US 432-570-8200 OR ONE OF OUR LICENSED REALTORS TO INQUIRE ABOUT OUR FULL RANGE OF RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS.

SUNDAY FEATURED HOMES

7219 ECR 113 - $899,990
Gorgeous Greenwood custom home in beautiful Charey Ranch, features 4 bedrooms, grand master suite, 3 full baths, fabulous kitchen, ss appliances, granite, custom cabinetry, upgraded lighting & plumbing fixtures, tiled "wood" flooring thru-out, security cameras, trees galore, sod & auto sprinklers in front, shop plus air-conditioned dog run, beautiful stone/brick fence surrounds extra large backyard!!
Fonzie Everett 432-661-2510

4003 CASTLEFORD - $389,500
BEAUTIFULLY updated home in Saddle Club South!! This home BOASTS 4 large bedrooms and 2 1/2 bathrooms!! Also includes a Study!! Newly remodeled Master bathroom that is AMAZING!! GORGEOUS Updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances!! Formal dining area. Eat-in Kitchen and Breakfast bar!! SPACIOUS Living room with beautiful fireplace and wall of windows! Club house has pool and tennis courts!
Genie McMahon 432-894-0813

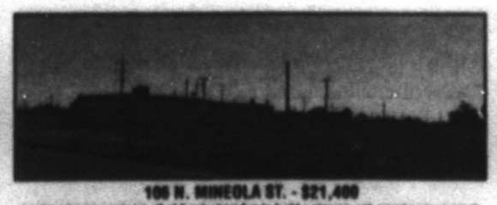
2110 TODD - $335,000
Adorable country home with beautiful views. Minutes from the city, easy access from loop 250 & hwy 80. 3 bedroom 2.5 baths, with recently added modern sequestered master bedroom with 2 separate huge custom made gorgeous closets, dual sinks. Large remodeled beautiful living room, wood shutters throughout the house. Enclosed doubled door rv parking garage. Small barn area 2 horse stall.
Angelica Tillman 432-853-1963

305 S. JEFFERSON - $229,000
Charming 4 bedroom home with 3 full baths, sequestered master suite, w/ separate tub and shower, his and her sinks and large walk-in closet. Open concept living/kitchen/dining area, perfect for family gatherings. Inviting backyard with mature tree and stamped concrete patio, perfect for backyard bar-b-ques!! Seller is offering a $5000 closing cost allowance & or paint/carpet allowance!!!
Fonzie Everett 432-661-2510

312 S. GLENWOOD AVE. - $189,000
Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 full bathroom close to school! Lovely backyard for entertaining with mature landscaping!! Call today for your private showing!!
Genie McMahon 432-894-0813

1003 DORAN DR., ODESSA, TX - $160,000
Need a TON of space- this is the house for you!! Six bedrooms and 4 baths all under one roof. Both living quarters have kitchen and stoves and refrigerators stay with property. Great for Mother in Law suite. Nice size yard with storage & parking in rear. Quiet neighborhood and close to roadways and shopping.
Susan Capers 432-559-5215

1303 CASTLE RD. – ODESSA, TX - $134,950
Nice starter home with new carpet, granite counter top in kitchen, and a big back yard. Seller will require a $2,000.00 Earnest Money Deposit. Seller also prefers local lenders. Repairs are underway. This beauty will have a new roof, repaired windows (from storm/hail damage), new paint on the exterior of the home, and other visible things that will be fixed prior to closing. We have accepted bids for all the work that will be done. This one won't last long! Must see!!!
Sonya Lona 432-934-5350


106 N. MINEOLA ST. - $21,400
Looking for an empty lot off of E Industrial Ave to build a storage unit, warehouse, or small store! This property is for you! Its currently zoned LI and vacant so please just go on out off of E Texas Ave and N Mineola st to see it. There are two lots for sale right next to each other 104 Mineola and 106 Mineola you get to choose which is better for you or even better purchase both for more room!
Jennifer Jones 432-940-9985

104 N. MINEOLA ST. - $21,400
Looking for an empty lot off of E Industrial Ave to build a storage unit, warehouse, or small store! This property is for you! Its currently zoned LI and vacant so please just go on out off of E Texas Ave and N Mineola St to see it. There are two lots for sale right next to each other 104 Mineola and 106 Mineola you get to choose which is better for you or even better purchase both for more room!
Jennifer Jones 432-940-9985

mrt classifieds

432.682.6999 432.682.6222 mrtclassifieds@mrt.com

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF TEXAS

To Fernando Gardea AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The petition of Yobrielda Gomez, Petitioner, was filed in the 318th District Court of Midland County, Texas, on September 18, 2017 against Fernando Gardea, Respondent, numbered FM-63,001 and entitled "In the Matter of the name change of Daniel Fernando Gardea, a Child" The suit requests a name change

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment in the Petitioner's interest which will be binding upon you

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Midland County, Texas, on this 22nd day of November, 2017

Ross Bush
Clerk of the 318th Court of
Midland County, Texas

By Gilda Morales, Deputy Clerk

Legal and Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed Proposals will be accepted by the County Purchasing Agent, located in Suite 1101 of the Midland County Courthouse, 500 N. Loraine Street, Midland, Texas 79701 until 10:00 A.M., Local Time, January 11, 2018. The proposals will be opened and acknowledged at 10:05AM., Local Time, January 11, 2018

Generally, the Commissioners Court selection will be made within 30 days. Interested parties are invited to attend the proposal acknowledgment and the Commissioners Court meeting

RFP 17MCO528 –PAVING SO AND CSCD PARKING LOTS

A MANDATORY survey will be held at 9:00 A.M. on Monday, December 18, 2017 at the Midland County Sheriff's Office. We will meet in the lobby of the William B. Adlers Justice Center building.

Midland County reserves the right to reject any or all of the responses, to waive all formalities, and to withdraw the RFP at any time.

The RFP will be available on Monday December 11, 2017. Information may be obtained from the County Purchasing Agent's Office 432-688-4872 or pur103@co.midland.tx.us or on the Midland County Purchasing webpage www.co.midland.tx.us/departments/purchasing

Kristy Engeldahl
Midland County Purchasing Agent

Legal and Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP

The State of Texas § **M. MICHELLE GREENE,**
Applicant's Attorney
County of Midland § **2933 WILDWOOD**
§ **ODESSA, TX 79761**

To all persons interested in the estate of

JERRY TED STANAFORD, Deceased
Cause No. **P19283**
in COUNTY COURT, Midland County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship in this estate on 11/27/2017, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **JERRY TED STANAFORD**, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The court may act on this application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 a.m. **12/11/2017**, which is the first Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of posting this citation, at the Midland County Courthouse, 500 N. Loraine, Midland, Texas 79701.

All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to this Application should they desire to do so. **To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention, or response in writing** with the County Clerk of Midland County, Texas **on or before the above-noted date and time.**

Given under by hand and seal of the COUNTY COURT of Midland County, Texas at the office of the Midland County Clerk in Midland, Texas on November 27th 2017

Alison Haley
County Clerk, Midland County, Texas
Box 1350, Midland, Texas 79702

By: SHON BRENT, Deputy

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to the Decree and Order for Partition by Public Sale entered in Cause No. 7 I 04 in the I I 8 t h District Court in Martin County, Texas, the following property will be sold by public auction:

THE SURFACE ONLY OF SECTION 43, BLOCK 37, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 233, MARTIN COUNTY, TEXAS, CONTAINING 640.81 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.

Such sale will be for cash, which may also be in the form of certified funds. The public auction will take place in front of the northeast corner of the Martin County Courthouse on the 2nd day of January, 2018 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and l0:30 a.m.

For information about the property, please contact Brent Preston at (806) 470-0464.

Legal and Public Notices

Notice OF PUBLIC Sale Pursuant to Chapter 59 Texas Property Code, SecurCare Self Storage, will hold a Public Sale of Property to satisfy landlords lien on Tuesday the 2nd day of January, 2018 at 10:00 AM. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Property must be removed within 72 hours and space broom swept. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid and withdraw property from a sale. Bidding takes place on Lockerfox.com. Said property is SecurCare Self Storage 0215 Midland, 1010 North Loop 250 West, Midland, TX, 79703 Midland County Hulsey, Elva Toddler Bed,Totes

Legal and Public Notices

NOTICE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS SENSITIVE DATA

NO. FM 61,416

IN THE INTEREST OF	§	**IN THE DISTRICT COURT**
	§	
CALEB NEWMAN AND	§	**318TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
JOSEPH BACHMAN	§	
	§	
CHILDREN	§	**MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS**

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
STATE OF TEXAS

TO **Len Newman, Defendant, and to all whom it may concern:**

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. The petition of Joseph Gillett, Plaintiff, was filed against Len Newman, Defendant, on October 17, 2016, in the 318TH Judicial District Court of Midland County, Texas, and is numbered FM-61416, and entitled ITIO Bachman and Newman children.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the Plaintiff's interest which will be binding upon you.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Courty at Midland, Texas, this 30th of November, 2017

Ross Bush,
Clerk of the 318TH District Court
Midland County, Texas

By: Deputy

General Announcement

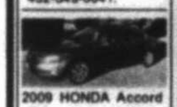
Thank You! Jesus! Mark Berryhill.com Ministering for Christ Teach the Lord's Word 1-4

Fax Your Ad 682-6999

Autos For Sale-Lease

Passenger Cars

2001 TOYOTA Avalon, White. Has engine replacement, new tune up, new car stereo, new tires and rims. Must see! $4,500. 432-349-0041.



2009 HONDA Accord EXL- gray / leather / brand new tires / great condition, 108K miles, runs great. $7,950.00 Call (432) 889-2255

CADILLAC 2006 DTS. One owner, 60K actual miles. Garage kept. Have records of all service & oil changes. $9950. 432-212-1830

NISSAN 2007 Sentra, good condition. 432-230-0299

VOLKSWAGEN 2007 Beetle, 79K miles. Good tires, new battery, new fuel pump. Runs well. $4500. Call Edward 432-352-8938

Attention Readers
In observance of
Christmas Day
The Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed
Monday, December 25th, 2017

Advertising Deadlines

Classified Word Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Mon., Dec 25th	Fri., Dec 22nd, 4pm
Tues., Dec 26th	Fri., Dec 22nd, 4pm

Classified Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Mon., Dec. 25th	Thurs., Dec 21st, 2pm
Tues., Dec 26th	Thurs., Dec. 21st, 2pm

Retail Display Ads

Publishing On:	Deadline is:
Mon., Dec 25th	Thurs., Dec 21st, 2pm
Tues., Dec 26th	Thurs., Dec 21st, 2pm

CIRCULATION HOURS
Customer Service calls will be taken
Monday, December 25th from 7 AM-10 AM only
We will reopen Tuesday, Dec. 26th for regular business hours

Business
Computers
Employment
Merchandise
Personals
Automobiles
Lodge Notices
Electronics
Financial
Health & Fitness
Miscellaneous
Real Estate
RV's
Legal Notices
Lost & Found
Who's Who
Personals
Automobiles
Marty's Market
Trailers
Notices
Rentals
CLICK

Everything
You Need Is Just A
Click Away
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mrt.com

Call: 432-682-6222
Email: mrtclassified@mrt.com

GET THE JOB | WRITING

Know Yourself

Finding the right job takes more than luck and tenacity. Sure, hard work is a requirement for any successful career, but you're much more likely to succeed if you find a company that's a good long-term fit for your career goals.

It's a popular saying, but it's very true: If you find a job you love, you'll never work a day in your life.

The most successful careers often start with something you're passionate about. And to find a good match for your skills and interests in the workforce, you've got to look first inside yourself.

Get honest feedback

Sometimes it's hard to see yourself in the same light that others see you. Ask your friends, family and co-workers how you present yourself professionally and what you can do to improve the image you portray.

It's a tough conversation to have — and certainly not one you can have with just anyone — but it can help you get insights that you never would have thought of on your own.

You can also practice job interview skills with another person who can serve as your coach. They should be someone you trust to give you honest advice about what you need to work on. It might be how you speak, how you look or how you use body language, but clear feedback from another person — preferably someone who is a good example of professionalism themselves — can be very valuable.

Point out your progress

Employers are probably going to ask about your weaknesses. Be prepared not only with a good, clear answer, but also with concrete ways you've overcome your personality flaws.

They don't just want to know what kind of skills they're getting, but the methods you take to improve your value to the company, too.

For example, if you're a naturally shy person, you can bring up concrete stories about steps you've taken to communicate better with your co-workers. Maybe you volunteered to organize a local fundraiser or took a speech class in college. While no employee is perfect, employers do want to see things you're doing to improve on your skill set.

Know where you shine

If you're really good at one particular skill — such as organization, project planning or creativity — don't be shy about pointing that out and giving specific examples of how it has helped you in similar jobs in the past.

You need to truly understand where your strengths lie and be able to articulate that clearly and confidently when given the chance.

Some people might see that as bragging, but it's perfectly appropriate in a job interview. If you're good at something, don't be shy about it. Bring it up. Show your potential employer what you bring to the table.

By knowing yourself, you'll be much more likely to find a job that makes you happy for the long term.

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FEATURED HOME

4308 Douglas Avenue
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, priced @ $185,000

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Carrasco Homes

5309 Balfour Court
3 bedrooms, 3 baths,
3 car garage,
priced @ $435,000

Ashington Homes

5309 Dunraven Court
4 bedrooms, 3 baths,
3 car garage,
priced @ $609,900

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love!

~ Hamilton Wright Mabie

RESIDENTIAL LISTINGS/HOME SITES/ACREAGE

RESIDENTIAL

4827 Rio Dr.....3 Bdrm/1.5 Ba/1 Car Garage.....D/C
1411 Custer Ave.....Odessa/3 Bdrm/2 Ba.....D/C
4308 Douglas.....3 Bdrm/2 Ba.....$185,000
3214 Sinclair Ave.....3 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage.....D/C
5016 Rio Grande Ave.....3 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/2 Car Garage.....D/C
5907 Sabine Dr.....4 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage.....$388,000
4900 Stonehedge Dr.....4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage.....D/C
3513 Woodhaven Dr.....4 Bdrm/2 Ba/2 Car Garage.....$589,000
6106 Dunbarton Oaks Blvd.....4 Bdrm/4.5 Ba/3 Car Garage.....$969,000

NEW CONSTRUCTION

4301 San Pedro Ct.....Carrasco Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage.....D/C
5309 Balfour Ct.....Carrasco Homes/3 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage.....SOLD

1309 Desert Rose.....Diamond Homes/4 Bdrm/2.5 Ba/2 Car Garage.....D/C
1400 Stonebridge Dr.....Crystal Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage.....D/C
5302 Dunraven Ct.....Carrasco Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage.....D/C
7305 E. Co. Rd. 113.....Michael Davis Homes/4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage.....$541,210
5311 Balfour Ct.....Diamond Homes, 4 Bdrm/3 Ba, 3 Car Garage.....SOLD
5309 Dunraven Ct.....Ashington Homes, 4 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage.....SOLD
7209 E. Co. Rd. 114.....Crystal Homes/5 Bdrm/3 Ba/3 Car Garage.....$649,500
7213 E. Co. Rd. 113.....Midland Gallery Homes/4 Bdrm/4 Ba/3 Car Garage.....$699,500

SUBURBAN/ACREAGE

2372 Co. Rd. 2031.....Stanton/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/Mobile Home.....$130,500
2363 Co. Rd. 2031.....Stanton/3 Bdrm/2 Ba/1 Car Garage.....D/C
12200 W. Co. Rd. 58.....4 Bdrm/3 Ba/2.5 Acres.....$335,000

3708 E. Co. Rd. 1184.....3 Bdrm/2 Full Ba/2 Half Ba/1 Carport.....$279,000
13944 E. Goldenrod Drive.....Gardendale/20.64 Acres.....$416,000

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

43 East Industrial Loop.....4000 Sq. Ft./1.75 Acres.....$325,000
302 E. Marienfeld.....11,000 Sq. Ft.....$750,000

OUT OF TOWN PROPERTIES

12 Co. Rd. 2001.....Andrews/10 acres.....$65,000
1980 E. Co. Rd. & 2001.....Stanton/10 Acres.....$135,000
1401 HWY 176.....Big Spring/20 Acres.....$195,000
W. Co. Rd. 2300.....Stanton/10 acres.....$200,000
E. Co. Rd. 2300.....Stanton/11.04 acres.....$220,000
0 E. Co. Rd. & 2001.....Stanton/41.78 Acres.....$313,200

FEATURED PROPERTIES

3513 Woodhaven Drive
4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, priced @ $589,000

5907 Sabine Drive
4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, priced @ $388,000

12200 W. Co. Rd. 58
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2.5 acres, priced @ $335,000

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683-1000

OPEN HOUSES

1303 PUEBLO $350,000.....OPEN TODAY 1:30-2:30

4+ BEDROOMS

8312 Edinburgh Drive-Magnificent mansion on 2.5 acres(7400 sqft)- Totally updated! 4 bed/4 full bath+3 half bath/4 living/3 fireplaces & dazzling pool, outdoor kitchen & bar on lushly landscaped grounds! Rio detail left anglove! Hardwoods, soaring ceilings & winding staircase! $995,000
2513 Homeland Dr.-Stunning home completed in 2017 w/dazzling pool on landscaped corner! 5 bed/5.5 bath/4 living (great room, formal, media, study)+ 2 study areas w/ built-in desks! Oversized 4 car gar w/living space! Patio w/fireplace! $899,000
13201 FCR 116-Stunning 4 bed/4.5 bath/4 living (great, game, study, upstairs loft)/3 gar home w/workshop on 1.8 acres in gated community! Irrigated, fenced, grounds w/enormous patio w/living area & fireplace! Triple side-entry garage! $845,000
6810 Island Cir.-Fabulous location on the lake in Green Tree North (.625 acre lot)! 2-story home w/ 5 bedrooms/4.5 bath/4 living (formal, great room, study, game room)/2 dining/5 car garage! 2 fireplaces! Lg. back patio & pergola! $825,000
4310 Coyote Trail-Absolutely fabulous home on 1.33 Acres—country living with convenience! 4 Spacious bed/3.5 bath/2 dining/4 living (great room, media room, formal living, study)/2 car gar-Superbly in workshop (1225 sqft) w/2 gar doors & rv parking! Fantastic swim spa recently added! $799,000
800 Crested Butte Ct.-Spectacular custom 4 bed/4.5 bath/3 living (media, great, formal) or 5 bed (media has closet)/4 cov gar! Gourmet kitchen w/huge island, stainless appli, gas cooktop, ice maker & granite thru-out! Lovely landscaped! $725,000
7004 Calen Ct.-Spectacular 5 bed/5 living (great room, formal, game/media room, study, sunroom)/2 dining/4 car garage home w/ dazzling pool & high brick privacy fence! 2 fireplaces, built-ins, gourmet kitchen w/ granite! $639,000
10310 SCR 1210-Fantastic unique property! 1.2 acres w/ runway, hangar, office & living accommodations! 50x76 hangar w/ retractable door! 2-story w/ 5 bedrooms/6 full baths/3 living/3 dining/2 car garage w/ workshop! $588,000
7501 HCR 1270-Spectacular 4 bed/ 3 bath/2 living/2 dining home w/3 gar & RV hookup on 1.24 acres in lovely Estrada Estates! Granite thru-out, gourmet kitchen w/ top stainless appl! Private backyard that extends beyond fencing! $479,900
4004 Crestwood Ave.-Spectacular find! Huge 4 bed/2.5 bath/2 dining area, 2 living area (den, game) home w/dazzling pool! Very spacious bed, closets & lg. living areas! Super low maint, backyard & lovely landscaped front yard! $365,900
3 Bentley Court-Super spacious 5 bed/4 bath/4 living area (formal,den,game room,study)/2 dining area home w/2 master suites/3 car gar! Zoned hvac (one large unit replaced 2013 covers 1/2 down + all upstairs)! $375,0a0
2800 N Garfield St.-Executive style townhouse w/ 3 bed (downstairs master w/ 2 baths)/4.5 baths/2 living areas (great room+upstairs study)/2 dining/wet bar/2 fireplaces & 3 car gar! Low maint front courtyard & pool/hot tub & cabana area in back! $375,000
6106 Crystal Sky Lane-Absolutely gorgeous 4 bed/2 bath/great room+dining/2 gar home w/all the extras...Huge lushly landscaped lot! Soaring ceilings, stacked crown molding, walls of windows, plantation shutters thru-out, hardwood floors, archways & rounded corners! $345,000
1303 Pueblo-Absolutely fabulous & updated to the max! Recent everything! 4 bed/2.5 bath/2 living (small formal,large great room)...on .77 acre lot! Gourmet kitchen! $339,900
1804 N Main St.-Beautiful custom built home! 5 bed/5 bath/2 living (formal, great room) w/ 6 car parking pad! Gourmet kitchen, soaring ceilings & recessed lighting! Guest quarters w/full kitchen & bath! Lg. backyard w/ covered patio! $308,000

1, 2 & 3 BEDROOMS

5311 Wimbledon Spring Court-Beautiful 3 bed/2.5 bath plus office/study w/ oversized 2 car gar in Greenhouse! Spacious open concept w/tile flooring & granite thru-out! Covered porch, storage shed & rv pad in backyard! $410,000
2302 Haynes Dr.-Incredible find- fantastic price! Superbly updated 3 bed/1.5 bath/2 living/2 car gar low maint townhouse w/lovely (small) landscaped backyard! Master suite is huge- 2 full baths & 2 walk-in closets! $275,000
1300 E Spruce-Wow! What a fantastic find! 3 bed/2 bath/2 car gar! Gourmet kitchen w/stainless appliances: gas cooktop, dishwasher, microwave & pantry! Custom finishes on cabinets & gorgeous bronze fixtures! $230,000
2010 Carver-WOW! Fantastic 2 bed/1 bath/2 gar new construction home! Light & bright open floor plan w/ high ceilings & tile flooring (carpet in bedrooms)! Gourmet kitchen w/ tumbled marble back splash, custom cabinet finishes w/ bronze tone fixtures & granite thru-out! Exp completion date March 2018 .....$229,900
2012 Carver-WOW! Fantastic 2 bed/1 bath/2 gar new construction home! Light & bright open floor plan w/ high ceilings & tile flooring (carpet in bedrooms)! Gourmet kitchen w/ tumbled marble back splash, custom cabinet finishes w/ bronze tone fixtures & granite thru-out! Exp completion March 2018 .....$219,900
2014 Carver-WOW! Fantastic 2 bed/1 bath/2 gar new construction home! Light & bright open floor plan w/ high ceilings & tile flooring (carpet in bedrooms)! Gourmet kitchen w/ tumbled marble back splash, custom cabinet finishes w/ bronze tone fixtures & granite thru-out! Exp completion march 2018 .....$219,900
1312 E Spruce-Wow! What a fantastic find! 3 bed/2 bath/2 car gar! Gourmet kitchen w/stainless appliances: gas cooktop, dishwasher, microwave & pantry! Custom finishes on cabinets & gorgeous bronze fixtures! $219,900
1304 Spruce Ave.-Wow! What a fantastic find! 3 bed/2 bath/2 car gar! Gourmet kitchen w/stainless appliances: gas cooktop, dishwasher, microwave & pantry! Custom finishes on cabinets & gorgeous bronze fixtures! $219,900
7202 ECR 60-Fantastic and well maintained 3 bed/2 bath mobile home sitting on a 1.1 acre corner lot! Open flow plan w/kitchen/breakfast dining & great room! Sequestered master w/garden tub & dual sinks! $185,000
501 #16 W Robertson Dr.-Very nice 2 bed/1.5 bath- 2 story townhome! New carpet & paint, updated light fixtures & AC unit! Spacious bed with his/her closets, Covered patio w/small fenced yard! Maint. free, public laundry & community pool! $97,000
3000 #4 Illinois Ave.-Charming updated two story condo! Nice living community with pretty pool right outside of the patio. Two bedrooms and full bath up stairs, Living room, half bath, study area, dining and kitchen down stairs with huge windows to look out at the patio! $74,000
900 Roosevelt Ave (Coleman)-Acreage with in-town amenities! 2.7 acres outside of the city w/ city utilities! No restrictions! 3 bed/1 bath/bonus room! Washer & dryer stay! Detached gar w/ 2 storage areas plus small shed! A few livestock! $40,000

COMMERCIAL, LAND AND LOTS

6800 CR 258, Coleman, TX 76834-05 acres of beautiful country! Native grass, 2 stock ponds & oil production! 14x80 Morgan bldg 1 bed/1 bath/ central HVAC, septic & satellite tv. Storage bldg, sporter rig, tools, vhs fencing & mower! $350,000
141. . .ojas-7.9 Acres in 349 ranch estates (just north on big spring across from midland country club) $200,000
715 N Reeves St, Coleman Tx 76834-Fantastic investment property for sale including the liquor store business or purchase the building for another business! Great location on the north side of coleman! 1271 Sq ft brick building featuring a large cooler, two storage rooms, an office and bathroom! $150,000
2100 N Lamesa Rd-Zoning LI2, Fabulous commercial property includes large parking lot & building! Building includes office space & 2 garage bays! Now the office space (some of the office needs to be completed) and small storage closet, 2 Bathrooms located outside the office $120,000
1301 Dace Way, Snyder Tx 79549 - 6 Acres perfect for industrial use located in industrial park southeast snyder! Approximately 1 acre yard fenced with caliche pad. Includes a metal office building 288 sq ft and small storage building! $99,000
Tischler Well Estates-Fast growing subdivision timber well estates--city of midland, north on, hgwy 5 acre lots @ $13k/acre, plat available. Water well/septic system/fence can be added to price but @ buyers expense. Standard electric. Can almost midland tel or stanton tel. Min home 1,800 sq ft $62,000
Cotter Estates-Fabulous subdivision conveniently located w/ great midland/odessa estates 10 min hgwy .75 Acres plat available. Roads will be paved by developer. Water well/septic system can be added to sales price but @ buyers exp. min home 2000 sq ft, buyer has choice of builder, plans approved by developer $39,000

UNDER CONTRACTS & SOLDS!

4904 Sherwood.....UNDER CONTRACT IN 1 WEEK!
4817 Rio Dr.....UNDER CONTRACT IN 1 WEEK!
1310 Spruce Ave.....UNDER CONTRACT!
1308 Spruce Ave.....UNDER CONTRACT!
1310 Spruce Ave.....UNDER CONTRACT!
1200 Alameda Ct.....UNDER CONTRACT!
2500 Whittle Way.....UNDER CONTRACT IN 1 DAY!
3210 W Dengar.....UNDER CONTRACT IN 1 DAY!
1110 Lizzard Ct.....UNDER CONTRACT IN 1 DAY!
5700 San Miguel Ave.....UNDER CONTRACT!
4100 ECR 01.....UNDER CONTRACT!
2609 Parton Way.....UNDER CONTRACT!
6900 Cowboy Dr.....UNDER CONTRACT!
3610 W Ohio Ave.....UNDER CONTRACT!
2507 Princeton Ave.....UNDER CONTRACT!
2401 Radford Ave.....UNDER CONTRACT IN 1 WEEK!
3015 Amelia.....UNDER CONTRACT!
5012 Oak Creek Dr.....UNDER CONTRACT!
2602 Shandon Ave.....UNDER CONTRACT!
45 Lafayette Pl.....SOLD!
3303 Ole Mar Court.....SOLD!
5215 Quicksand Dr.....SOLD!
4513 Rustic Tr.....SOLD!
600 Valor.....SOLD!
2405 Tealand Circle.....SOLD!
1214 Dorchill Drive.....SOLD!
4310 Rustic Trail.....SOLD!

PRINTZ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
684-8202 FOR LEASE

4310 Coyote Trail - 4 bed/3.5 bath.....$4,500
5200 Ellen Joyce Way - 3 bed/3 bath.....$3,000
2609 A. Haynes Dr - 3 bed/2.5 bath.....$2,400
5314 Course Court - 3 bed/2 bath.....$2,350
3223 W. Golf Course Rd - 2 bed/2 bath.....$1,700

For information on rentals contact Leasing Agent, Maria Arispe at 524-9396

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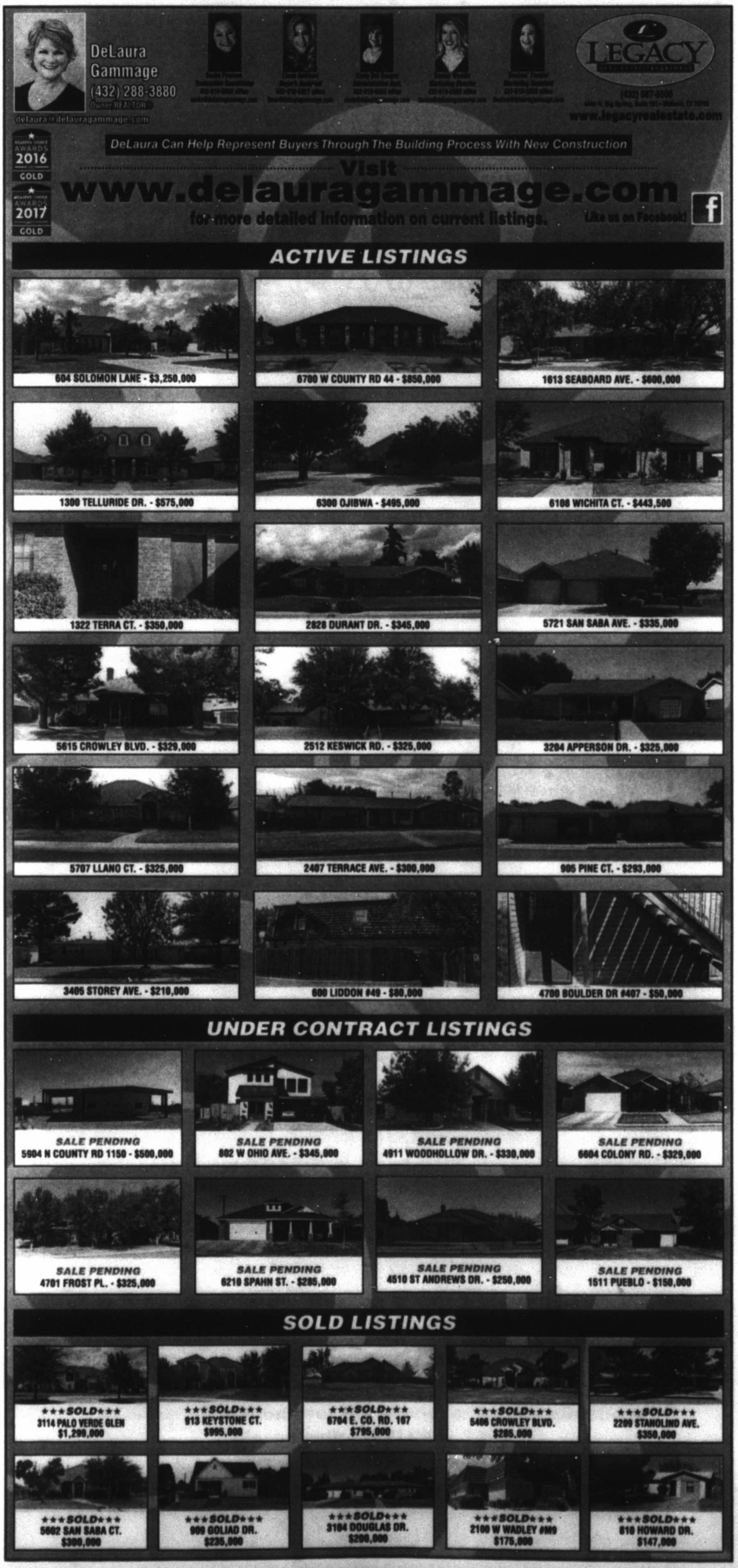
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6700 W COUNTY RD 44 - $850,000
1613 SEABOARD AVE. - $600,000
1300 TELLURIDE DR. - $575,000
6300 OJIBWA - $495,000
6108 WICHITA CT. - $443,500
1322 TERRA CT. - $350,000
2828 DURANT DR. - $345,000
5721 SAN SABA AVE. - $335,000
5615 CROWLEY BLVD. - $329,000
2512 KESWICK RD. - $325,000
3204 APPERSON DR. - $325,000
5707 LLANO CT. - $325,000
2407 TERRACE AVE. - $300,000
905 PINE CT. - $293,000
3405 STOREY AVE. - $210,000
600 LIDDON #49 - $80,000
4700 BOULDER DR #407 - $50,000
UNDER CONTRACT LISTINGS
SALE PENDING
5904 N COUNTY RD 1150 - $500,000
SALE PENDING
802 W OHIO AVE. - $345,000
SALE PENDING
4911 WOODHOLLOW DR. - $330,000
SALE PENDING
6604 COLONY RD. - $329,000
SALE PENDING
4701 FROST PL. - $325,000
SALE PENDING
6210 SPAHN ST. - $285,000
SALE PENDING
4510 ST ANDREWS DR. - $250,000
SALE PENDING
1511 PUEBLO - $150,000
SOLD LISTINGS
★★★SOLD★★★
3114 PALO VERDE GLEN
$1,299,000
★★★SOLD★★★
913 KEYSTONE CT.
$995,000
★★★SOLD★★★
6794 E. CO. RD. 107
$795,000
★★★SOLD★★★
5406 CROWLEY BLVD.
$285,000
★★★SOLD★★★
2209 STANOLIND AVE.
$350,000
★★★SOLD★★★
5602 SAN SABA CT.
$300,000
★★★SOLD★★★
909 GOLIAD DR.
$235,000
★★★SOLD★★★
3104 DOUGLAS DR.
$200,000
★★★SOLD★★★
2100 W WADLEY #M9
$175,000
★★★SOLD★★★
810 HOWARD DR.
$147,000

Lone Star Sanctuary for Animals

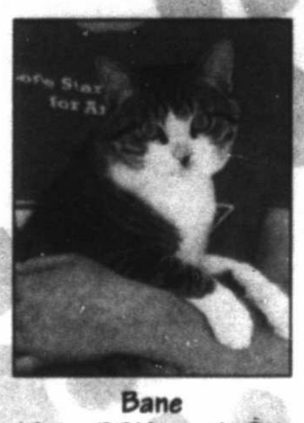
Saving and Changing Lives

4200 N Fairgrounds Road, Midland, TX 79705

ADOPTION SPECIAL

Must be 21 to adopt.

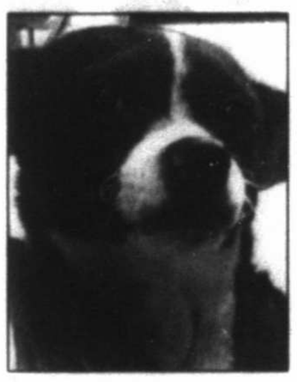
Ace
M - Lab Mix - 8m



Bane
M - DSH - 1y9m

Bastian
M - Corgi - 4y2m

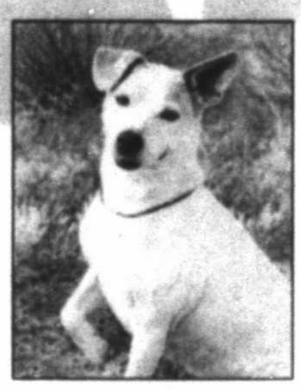
Buddy
M - Dachshund Mix
14y1m



Buttons
F - Dachshund Mix
1y

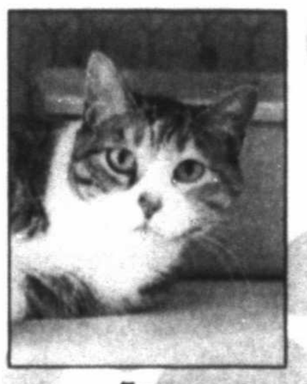
Castiel
M - Lab Mix
1y2m

Chuck
M - Shepherd Mix
3y11m



Coconut
F - Beagle Mix
10y2m

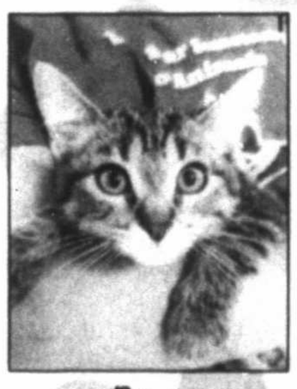
Corbin
M - Terrier Mix
1y3m



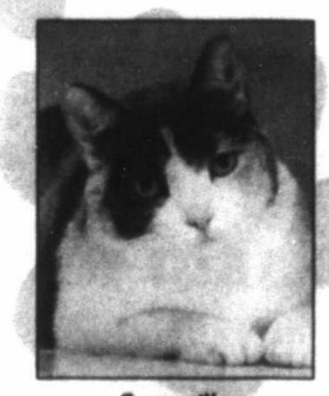
Erra
F - DSH
3y11m

Juanita
F - DSH - 3y9m

Persephone
F - DSH - 2y4m



Rowan
M - DSH - 23w



Sopapilla
F - DSH - 2y8m

Stanley
M - DSH - 4y5m

Ziggy
M - DLH - 4y9m

*Photography by Nina Noel

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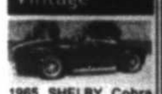

1965 SHELBY Cobra Replica, 1500 miles, custom built small block 427, 528 HP, 5 speed Tremec transmission. $45,000.00 (432) 661-0233.

4WD and SUV

2015 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT S 4X4, mint condition, clean carfax, white w/ black appearance group by Mopar w/ black 3 piece hard top. 41,000 mi., $29,900. 432-889-8337.

ORIGINAL PRICE $69,900, now priced $8,995! 1999 Lexus LX470 SUV, black, garage kept, regularly serviced. Call after 5pm 432-682-6139

Merchandise

Miscellaneous 4-Sale

LAST MINUTES Christmas Shoppers. Hobby Crafts by Don, wooden crosses, rifle style pens & assorted knitting. 4304 Brookdale Drive- Midland, Sat. 16th & Sun. 17th -all day. 432-262-2397

SCHECTER OMEN Extreme 4 string bass, super new condition with case. Used it for only 2 hours. $500. 6 pair of Carhartt Duck work pants, double knee 32x30. $250. Computer desk. $25. 30 gallon plastic barrels. $5, pipe threader set $40. 432-352-8419

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Pets-Animals

Dogs

LABRADOR RETRIEVER PUPPIES Grand Hunting Retriever Champ. bloodlines. Xmas day delivery in Midland! $1,000 English Labs OFA Cert. Hips & elbows Avail. in time for Xmas! Brooke 432-978-5300

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Legal and Public Notices

Public Notice
Proposal #2018-007

Midland College District is accepting competitive sealed proposals for hydraulic training systems. Proposal packets may be picked up Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., in the Purchasing Office, located at 3600 N Garfield, Midland, Texas. **Proposals will be accepted until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, January 4, 2018** in the Purchasing Office, at which time they will be opened and vendor names read into record. For proposal packet information contact Barbara Fennell, Director of Purchasing, (432)686-4250 or bfennell@midland.edu. A final determination may be made at a future board meeting. The College reserves the right to accept or reject any and or all bids submitted.

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4007 Cedar Springs- UNDER $100.00 IN MIDLAND!!! 2/1 with fresh paint across from school. Central HVAC, all new water lines,new roof, huge lot $95,900

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3 Acre Ranchito - 3229 Wadley & Fairgrounds ..... SOLD

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- **East County**
  - *11,155 ac. +/- of Snyder. 4 houses, pens/roping arena, 800 ft. elev., creek, lakes. Whitetail deer, mule deer and quail $795/ac
  - *4,212 ac. Maverik Creek, canyons, whitetail and mule deer and quail $825/ac
  - *1,771 ac. windmill, creek, blinds and feeders. great whitetail and mule deer, turkey, hogs, quail $850
- **Nolan County**
  - *546 ac. over 1 mile SOLD creek, blinds, feeders, elevation change, oak $3,550/ac
  - *565 ac. Pecan Creek, New Living/Shop, 700 acres cleared for cattle, blinds/feeders, windmill $4,425/ac
- **Howard County**
  - *642 ac. canyons, blinds/feeders, great deer, cedar/mesquite, surface water, some oilfield traffic $750/ac
  - *150 ac. big canyon, SOLD pinks, cedar/mesquites, great deer, turkey, gu $895/ac
- **Martin County**
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Lots and Land

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SUNDAY FEATURED HOMES

6700 W County Rd 44 - $850,000

MLS#R50010101A. Spectacular home in sunridge ranch estates with 3.5 Acres! Spacious 4 bedroom 4.5 Bath offers a beautiful pool, hot tub, covered patio & huge 4 car garage! Soaring ceilings with beautiful crown molding though out! Stunning sequestered master suite boasts amazing walk in closet! Double vanities, walk in shower & clawfoot bathtub! Gourmet kitchen with 6 burner gas stove, walk-in chef's pantry & breakfast bar with amazing rock!

1613 Seaboard Ave. - $600,000

MLS#R5009787A. Immaculate home in old midland with beautiful mature trees! 4 Bed 2.5 Bath 2 living & one of a kind kitchen! Stunning granite countertops, built in fridge, double ovens are just some of the amazing features in the kitchen! 2 Dining areas! Spacious master suite has his & her closets, double sinks in vanity & beautiful walk in shower! Amazing inside utility room! Great backyard for entertainment!

1300 Telluride Dr. - $575,0000

MLS# R50011210A. Immaculate 4 bed 4 bath 2 living area in woodland park! Beautiful builder upgrades & finishes! Tom woodruff resale! 2Nd living upstairs has full bath! Stunning granite countertops in spacious kitchen, opens to living area overlooking covered patio in backyard! Huge sequestered master suite offers double sinks in vanity, jetted tub, walk in shower with bench & amazing walk in closet! Spacious bedrooms! 3 Car garage!

6300 Ojibwa - $495,000

MLS# R50010715A. Spectacular home with 2 huge shops & all the space you need! Sparkling pool! 4 Bedrooms 2.5 Bathrooms with wide open floor plan! Living area offers wood burning fireplace surrounded by white austin rock opens to kitchen & formal dining area! Beautiful granite counter tops with tons of counter space! Breakfast bar! Stunning master with fireplace has wrap around walk in closet & back room that locks!

2407 Terrace Ave. - $300,0000

MLS# R50012103A. Cute 3 bed 2.5 Bath in an amazing location! Great neighborhood! All interior recently painted neutral colors! 2 Spacious living areas-one with fireplace opens to kitchen! Tons of counter space! Huge master suite overlooks backyard, has his/her walk in closets, double sinks in vanity & walk in shower with bench! Spacious bedrooms, great closet space! Inside utility room with sink! Workshop in backyard with ac unit!

"Whether you are selling the home where your memories are made or buying the home of your dreams... I look forward to helping you with any of your real estate needs."

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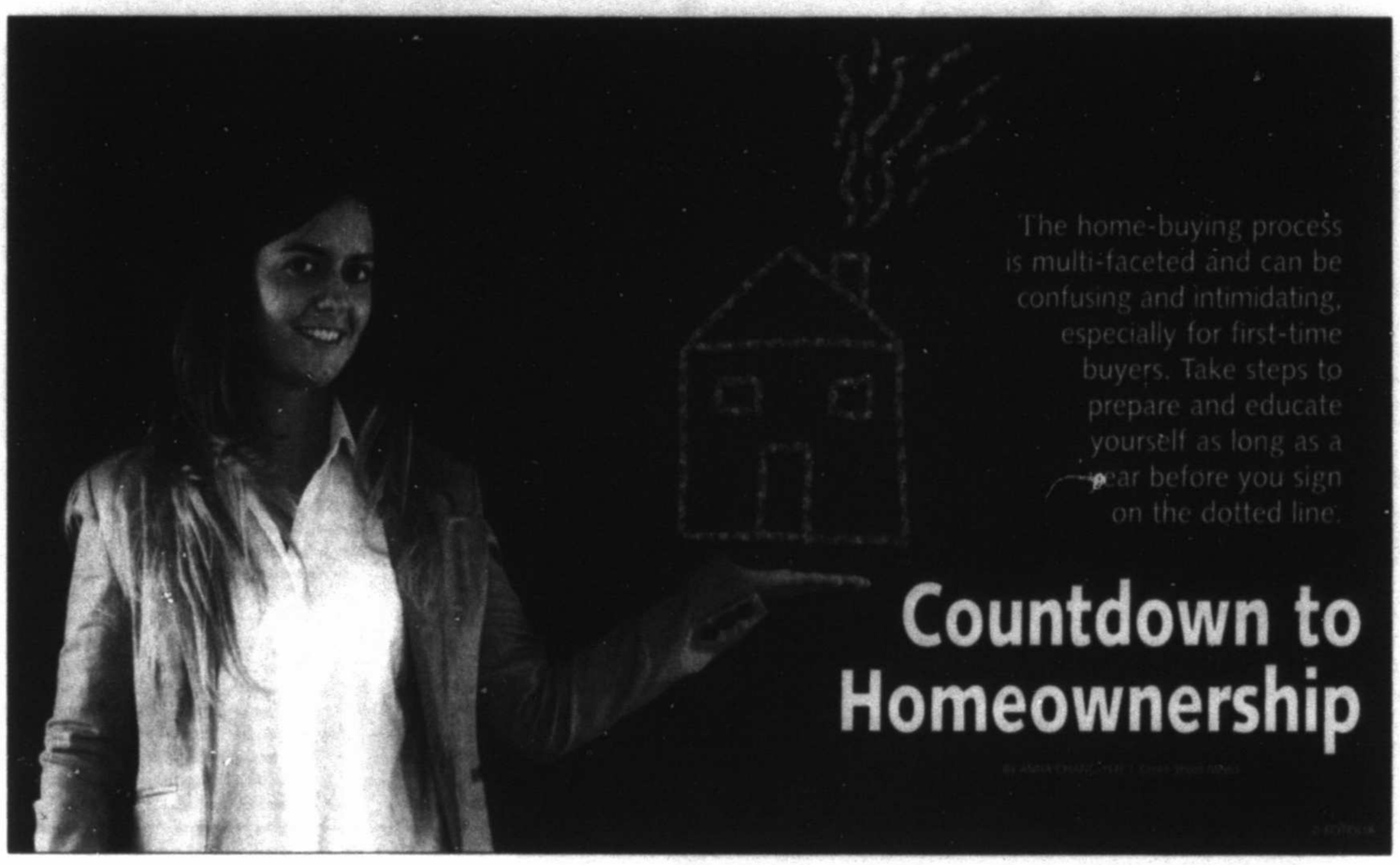
SUNDAY OPEN HOUSES

OPEN 2:00-3:00
4403 Green Tree Blvd. - $595,000
3BD/3.5BA/4LA
Shown by Gina Reyes

OPEN 3:30-4:30
2818 Moss - $255,000
3BD/2BA/PATIO HOME
Listed by Denise Brasher, Shown by Reece Bivens

HOMEWISE
Real Estate Tips and Advice



Depending on your situation, you may not have time to prepare as much as you'd like, but making every effort to understand and be ready for whatever curve balls might come your way can help ensure the transaction goes smoothly. Here are some suggestions for steps to take in the year before you start shopping for a home.

ONE YEAR BEFORE

Know your credit. For first-time homeowners, knowing and addressing any credit issues is absolutely key to the ability to buy a new home. You'll need some history with using credit, such as responsible use of a credit card, a history of student loan payments or a car loan. If you don't know what shape your credit is in, getting copies of your credit reports from the three major credit bureaus is essential. Starting early on addressing any potential credit issues will give you enough time to get through the process, which can be lengthy.

For example, if you find a late credit card payment listed on your credit report, but you have records showing the payment was on time, you'll have to dispute the status of the account with the credit bureau. The credit bureau will review your documentation and get in touch with the creditor to resolve the discrepancy. This process takes time, and if you need to address multiple credit issues, it could be months before your credit file is back in tip-top shape.

Now is also a great time to invest in a credit monitoring service. This will help you keep tabs on your credit reports from month to month, so that if any problems come up, you can take action and avoid surprises.

SIX MONTHS BEFORE

Take a class. Educating yourself about the home-buying process is essential, so that you can be sure you understand the legal and financial ramifications of anything to which you agree. Homebuyer education courses are offered by many organizations, including community colleges, nonprofits, banks and credit monitoring providers. Some federally insured mortgage programs require buyers to complete an education course, and some courses will meet Fannie Mae's HomePath buyer education requirements, making you eligible for 3 percent in closing costs assistance to help with your purchase.

Good courses will cover topics such as deciding whether to purchase a home, the steps involved in the process, personal finance and credit basics, types of mortgages and how to qualify, shop for and choose a mortgage, the basics of real estate and finding a home, as well as closing and issues that may arise after closing.

With the proper education, you will know the proper questions to ask when navigating a purchase, as well as the roles of all the people involved in the transaction.

Know the market. If you've chosen an area or neighborhood where you plan to purchase a home, now is a good time to read up on the local real estate market. Go to open houses and talk with agents (being sure to be honest about your intentions to hold off on a purchase for several months). Peruse the local newspaper and the web for homes for sale in the area, so that you will have a good idea of the size and type of homes available in your price range. Keeping your finger on the pulse of the local market also could provide an advantage when it comes time to purchase. For example, if you've had your eye on a house but it's been languishing on the market for months while other nearby homes are snapped up, you'll probably want to ask questions about any potentially hidden problems with the house. You also will get a feel for how quickly homes are being sold, so you'll know if you should act quickly on a new listing or wait out a price drop.

THREE MONTHS BEFORE

Find an agent. If your credit is in good shape and you've done your homework on the buying process, now is a good time to find an agent. The best way to choose an agent is with the referral of a trusted friend or family member. If you don't have personal recommendations to lean on, make some phone calls and set up meetings with at least three agents in your area. Tell the agents you are a first-time buyer and ask about their experience with buyers in your situation. Be honest about any credit challenges you may be facing, and tell the agent about the type of home and area in which you're interested. An agent with experience in situations similar to yours will be best equipped to help you pull of a smooth purchase. Also note your personal connection with the agent, as you will be spending a lot of time with your real estate pro while you attend showings and open houses, and during the negotiation process. You want to be sure you've chosen a personality that won't clash with your own and create friction.

ONE MONTH BEFORE

Get pre-approved. You can work with a loan officer at your bank or credit union or use the services of a qualified mortgage broker. No matter how you go about financing your home, pre-approval is a must-have before you go shopping. Pre-approval requires a detailed analysis of your credit reports, income and debts, so unless a major unforeseen issue arises, a pre-approval is the best indication you will be fully approved for a mortgage. Some sellers won't consider an offer from a buyer who isn't pre-approved for a loan, because they worry that the offer might fall through due to credit issues.

With the hard work done, the next step is the fun part — shopping for a home where you can envision living your life for decades to come. Knowing your future will unfold in a house just waiting to be discovered can be exhilarating. Get out there and find it.

REAL ESTATE 101

Find a Homebuyer Education Course

Looking for a homebuyer education program? Find a HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agency in your area at **tinyurl.com/2gssr3**. The site lists specialties of each program — such as pre-purchase counseling and workshops, financial management/budget counseling and rental housing counseling — so you can find the program that's right for your situation.

HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae or FNMA): a government sponsored corporation that buys and sells loans in the secondary market.

Interest Rate Margin: added to the index value of the loan to determine the note interest rate. This margin is fixed for the life of the loan.

SOURCE: Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions

Single Family Homes

LEGACY REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE 432-687-6500

FEATURED HOME

3121 FAIRFIELD LANE

If you are looking for "Practically Perfect," than look no further! This 4 bedroom (plus office) 3 bath home is stunning from top to bottom with many high-end finishing touches. Gourmet kitchen, sequestered master bedroom, and lovely finishes! $464,900 MLS#50012075

FEATURED LISTINGS

9708 FM 307	Residential or Commercial Land. Will subdivide into 1 Acre Tracts	MLS #50005743		$860,000
7106 ECR 114	4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1 living, 3 car garage. New Const., Chaney Ranch	MLS #50009494	UNDER CONTRACT	$574,950
7110 ECR 114	4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3 car garage. New Const., Chaney Ranch	MLS #50010571	NEW PRICE	$510,000
5611 CR 1214	4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage, New Const.	MLS #50011954	NEW LISTING	$475,000
3121 Fairfield Lane	4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage	MLS#50012075	NEW LISTING	$464,900
4902 N. Midkiff	Gorgeous Commercial Property	MLS #50011741	UNDER CONTRACT	$425,000
2104 Woodlawn Drive	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage	MLS #50011608	UNDER CONTRACT	$330,000
10909 E. Co. Rd. 108	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage + shop	MLS#50010772	SOLD	$310,000
4802 Melville	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage	MLS #50011638	UNDER CONTRACT	$249,900
409 Mel Ott	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage	MLS #50010639	UNDER CONTRACT	$294,600
6101 S. Co. Rd. 1095	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage + carport, 10 acres!	MLS #50011142	SOLD	$249,000
2603 Boeing Dr	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage	MLS #50010224	UNDER CONTRACT	$210,500
5252 Lake Co. Rd. 256	1 Bed, 2 Bath, On Lake Colorado City	MLS #106858	OWNER CARRY	$99,400
11070 Graham Way	3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1LA on 1.3 Acres near Lake Ive	MLS #50009684	UNDER CONTRACT	$89,000
SUNRIDGE RANCH ESTATES SECTION III				
6400 WCR 41	Lot 1, Block 6, 3.950 Acres	MLS#50010602		$89,900
6401 WCR 41	Lot 1, Block 8, 3.650 Acres	MLS#50010603		$89,900
6407 WCR 41	Lot 2, Block 8, 3.540 Acres	MLS#50010604		$89,900

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Higher Limits Nationally

As was the case recently for conventional conforming loan amounts, loan limits on forward and reverse mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration have been boosted for next year. FHA floor loan limits are determined based on 65 percent of conforming limits on residential loans that are acquired by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Late last month, the regulator and conservator of Fannie and Freddie, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, reported that the 2018 conforming limit has been set at $453,100.

On Thursday, the Department of Housing and Urban Development issued a letter indicating that the FHA floor limit on forward mortgages for next year on one-unit properties will increase to $294,515 from $275,665 in 2017. This floor applies to those areas where 115 percent of the median home price is less than the floor limit," the letter stated. "Any areas where the loan limit exceeds this 'floor' is considered a high-cost area, and HERA requires FHA to set its maximum loan limit 'ceiling' for high-cost areas at 150 percent of the national conforming limit." In high-cost areas, the one-unit ceiling limit is increasing to $679,650 in 2018 from $636,150 last year.

Thanks to rising home prices, FHA loan limits are increasing in 3,011 counties, while no change will occur in 223 counties. HUD also issued a letter indicating that the maximum claim amount limit for FHA-insured home-equity conversion (reverse) mortgages will be $679,650 next year.

Source: Mortgage Daily

Smith

SUBMITTED BY:
Suzanne Smith,
President, NMLS#192813
HNB Mortgage, NMLS# 205935
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Midland, Texas 79705
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How to Sleep More Guests in Your Home

The in-laws and their brood coming to stay for the holidays? Don't panic about where to stow everyone for the night. Below are a handful of tips for making sleeping space on any budget.

Screened off corners. So you put a cot in the office—now what? The answer is a privacy screen. "Buying a privacy screen to corner off sleeping spaces can help up the cozy ante, as well as keep your existing space functional."

Skinny sleeper sofa. When most of us hear the term "sleeper sofa," we think of the bulky bedding of yore. However, there are many twin size sleeper sofa options that could fit nicely in the living room, den, or even in the corner of the guest bedroom. No year-round guests? No worries! These make great reading nooks in the off season.

Bunk it out. Want to make the most of that guest bedroom? Try bunk beds. There are many attractive bunk bed options available. And who says bunk beds need to be for kids? Many companies make queen size bunk options. No guest room? No problem. Another option is placing bunk beds in a less-trafficked room, like the office or den. Want to hide the bunks from day-to-day activities? Add an intimate curtain or—if your budget allows—a sliding barn door, which will add discretion and make guests feel like they've got their own sleeping fort.

Consider alternate couches. The futon isn't the only couch with slumber party capabilities. Consider swapping one of your couches for a day bed equipped with a trundle bed, or look for a large sectional big enough to sleep one or more.

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RISMedia TOP 5

This story was submitted by
Norma Pine, Broker/Owner
Chris Beckett, Broker/Owner
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$499,000

STUNNING!

5912 Sabine Dr

Absolutely pristine 4 bedroom, 3 bath, 3-car garage Mark Payne custom home! Huge living areas, gameroom+media, luxurious master retreat w/two-her dressing area! Formal dining, gorgeous Pergola in backyard, lots of extra parking!

$492,000

SPECTACULAR!

6700 Hazelwood Dr

Beautiful Home by Howard Construction! 4th bedroom/ BONUS room/gameroom all a PLUS! Huge Kitchen, granite throughout, high-end custom cabinets! Sequestered master, jetted tub, separate shower! Huge walk-in closet. 4-car garage!

$525,000

ADORABLE!!

5212 San Antonio Ave

CLEAN! CLEAN! Move in ready. Great curb appeal. Large covered front porch with beautifully landscaped front yard. Vaulted ceiling in living area. Huge mature trees!

$229,000

CHARMING!!

1123 E. Hamby Ave

Very Special Property! Corner Lot! Well-maintained 3 bedroom, 2 bath, with hardwood floors. Bid to maximize a 600 square foot unfinished building which could be income property, guest quarters, you decide it's size. Must See!

$170,000

AWESOME!!

901 Helen Ryan Dr

One-owner immaculate move-in ready home w/upgrades in flooring! Spacious den w/high ceilings. Breakfast/ Dining w/granite kitchen! Spacious bedrooms w/great closets! Sequestered master w/entertaining backyard w/Pergola/ Landscaped!

$269,500

SUPER CUTE!!

3013 Apache Dr

Perfect 3Br 2Ba in Permian Estates! Master & 2nd living have been added on! Sequestered master, tons of storage, large bathroom, cozy kitchen! Large backyard with 2 storage buildings! STORAGE OR PLAY ROOM! AWESOME SQ!!

$115,000

FANTASTIC!!

4608 S FM 715

Beautiful 4 bedroom/2 full & 2 half bath home on 5 acres! Property has numerous out-buildings, covered parking pad for an RV, 2400 sq ft shop w/a 600 sqft apartment, Horse stalls, 12x24 storage building, 4-car carport!

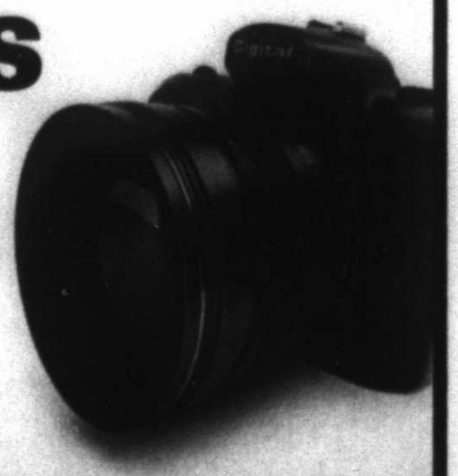
$450,000

4 Incredible Lots For Sale!
2101 N. H Street - $119,500
6309 Chickasaw Dr - $58,900
3001 Seafin, Odessa - $70,000
3101 Seafin, Odessa - $63,900

WORK WITH ONE OF OUR TOP NOTCH AGENTS

Snap Up a Deal in the **Classifieds**

Call or go online to **browse**, **buy** or **sell**!



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LEGACY REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

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NEW CONSTRUCTION IN MIDLAND

EE HOMES, INC.

7298 E. CO. RD. 111, CHANEY RANCH...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... $699,000
7299 E. CO. RD. 112, CHANEY RANCH...Josie Rendon 889-8394...MLS #50009525 ... SALE PENDING
7291 E. CO. RD. 98, VISTA DEL SOL...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... SALE PENDING
12029 E. NOBLES...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #5000949 ... $149,900

KEA BUILDERS, LLC

7109 E. CO. RD. 114...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50009494 ... $574,950
7119 E. CO. RD. 114...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50010571 ... $518,000
3089 CO. RD. 143...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50006892 ... $429,000

SD HOMES MIDLAND LLC

7400 E. CO. RD. 91...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... SALE PENDING

JC CHAVEZ CONSTRUCTION

1306 E. PENNSYLVANIA AVE...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50010695 ... SALE PENDING
505 S. WEATHERFORD...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50010696 ... SALE PENDING

LUPITA HOMES

423 OAK AVE...Yvonne Gabaldon 210-6666 ... MLS #50010843 ... $240,000
1101 PENNSYLVANIA AVE...Yvonne Gabaldon 210-6666 ... MLS #50010702 ... $225,000

ARMADILLA HOMES, LLC

7307 E. CO. RD. 91...Melody Carroll ... MLS #50008626 ... $370,000

GOMEZ CONSTRUCTION

910 S. BAIRD ST...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50012067 ... $185,000
900 S. BAIRD ST...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50011285 ... SALE PENDING

BAHIA HOMES

4306 SALTILLO CT....Yvonne Gabaldon 210-6666 ... MLS #50011879 ... $414,895

LRG HOMES

1212 BURGANDY DR....Yvonne Gabaldon 210-6666 ... MLS #50011895 ... SALE PENDING

FOUR OR MORE BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

604 SOLOMON LANE...DeLaura Gammage 599-3880 ... MLS #50009355 ... $2,250,000
4200 GREENVILLE...Susan Palmer ... MLS #50010426 ... $775,000
4311 E. CO. RD. 90...Tina Atkins 661-0067 ... MLS #50008316 ... $710,000
4005 FAIRWOOD...Larry Hatfield ... MLS #50012141 ... $695,000
3304 MAMAR CT....Karen Foster ... MLS #50011311 ... $639,000
1613 SEABOARD AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50009787 ... $600,000
1300 TELLURIDE DR...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50011210 ... $575,000
5303 DUNRAVEN CT...Tracy Farrow 413-4417 ... MLS #50011327 ... $539,000
4217 BAYBROOK PL...Karen Foster ... MLS #50011851 ... $525,000
5300 OJIBWA DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50010715 ... $495,000
3907 ARROYO DR....Reannah Glover ... MLS #50010580 ... SALE PENDING
5108 WIDENER STRIP...Danny Norwood ... MLS #50004532 ... $489,900
4117 FOX HOLLOW....Donna Omar 349-1458 ... MLS #50012219 ... $475,000
3121 FAIRFIELD LN....Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50013075 ... $464,900
5707 CROWLEY....Stephanie Rogers 432-978-9757 ... MLS #50009500 ... $457,000
2309 S. CO. RD. 1126...Betty Hicks 553-8194 ... MLS #50012206 ... $445,000
5108 WICHITA CT DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50012061 ... $443,500
2112 EVANS LN....Pam Dodd 413-0780 ... $435,000
5114 GREATHOUSE....Stephanie Rogers 432-978-9757 ... MLS #50011578 ... $419,000
3292 SEABOARD...Larry Hatfield ... MLS #50011522 ... $389,900
5208 MATHIS...Martha Manulik ... SALE PENDING

4309 CORONADO CT...Melody Carroll 325-330-1182 ... MLS #50005658 ... $370,000
3124 PATRICK...Wendy Waddell 638-9955 ... MLS #50002486 ... $368,500
6515 GLADIOLA AVE....Tracy Farrow 413-4417 ... MLS #50007467 ... $365,000
1322 TERRA CT....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50010081 ... $365,000
305 KOUFAX CT....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50012235 ... $359,900
4105 CRESTRIDGE DR....Leah Watkins ... $359,500
2025 DURANT DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50010500 ... $345,000
5721 SAN SABA AVE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50011516 ... $339,000
V903 EMERSON PL....Karen Foster ... MLS #50011909 ... $335,000
3909 WESTMINSTER DR....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50011849 ... $334,500
5701 CARMEL CT....Tina Atkins 661-0067 ... MLS #50008581 ... SALE PENDING
1509 SAN FRANCISCO....Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ... MLS #50009081 ... $333,900
6604 COLONY RD....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... SALE PENDING
5015 CROWLEY BLVD....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50010915 ... $329,000
2512 KESWICK RD....DeLaura Gammage 288-388 ... MLS #50011889 ... $325,000
5707 LLANO CT....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50011636 ... $325,000
4701 FROST PL....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50010997 ... SALE PENDING
1311 CERRILLOS....Leah Watkins ... MLS #50010457 ... $314,900
6702 VANGUARD....Donna Omar ... $305,000
5302 WIDENER STRIP....Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ... MLS #50004532 ... SALE PENDING
4508-10 FAIRGATE DR.-DUPLEX....Cheryl Parrish ... MLS #50006199 ... $290,900

3203 DURANT DR....Cheryl Parrish ... MLS #50008947 ... $290,000
6110 CRYSTAL SKY LN....Leah Watkins ... MLS #50006820 ... $285,000
6216 SPAHN ST....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... SALE PENDING
2800 DURANT....Pam Dodd ... $280,000
#10 MARINOR COURT....Martha Manulik 557-8744 ... MLS #50006418 ... $279,500
2742 FAIR OAKS CIRCLE....Darla Davis 260-8077 ... MLS #105632 ... $275,000
509 O'ROURKE....Tina Atkins 661-0067 ... SALE PENDING
3002 NORTHTOWN....Leah Watkins ... MLS #50005784 ... $275,000
2609 FRONTIER DR....Darla Davis ... MLS #50011734 ... $270,000
7310 E. CO. RD. 61....Melody Carroll ... MLS #50008752 ... $250,000
3618 STOREY AVE....Ashley St. John ... MLS #50011093 ... $249,000
3217 SINCLAIR....Donna Omar ... MLS #50007296 ... $236,000
4516 GLENEAGLES DR....Kim Merrill ... MLS #50010927 ... $235,000
1017 HUNTINGTON....Danny Norwood 413-2764 ... MLS #50003883 ... $229,900
3405 STOREY AVE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50011629 ... $218,000
4010 N. CO. RD. 1270....Kay Rivers 934-5995 ... MLS #50008450 ... SALE PENDING
904 W. KANSAS AVE....Lisa Russell 741-5864 ... MLS #108203 ... $199,900
708 UPLAND DR....Cheryl Parrish 352-3053 ... MLS #50005289 ... $169,900
5124 STOREY AVE....Ashley St. John ... MLS #50011557 ... SALE PENDING
601 BECKLEY....Josie Alvarez 618-5013 ... $149,900

THREE BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

3701 CARDINAL LN....Pam Dodd ... $850,000
4403 GREEN TREE BLVD....Gina Reyes ... MLS #50012176 ... $595,000
2711 MARIE DR....Brittany Boyd ... $549,000
5617 CASA GRANDE TRAIL....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50011517 ... SALE PENDING
1804 NORTH H...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ... MLS #50008505 ... $368,900
4911 WOODHOLLOW DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50011398 ... SALE PENDING
2104 WOODLAWN DR. Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50011608 ... SALE PENDING
1002 W. OHIO AVE...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50011310 ... SALE PENDING
4700 ROSEWOOD....Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #50009582 ... SALE PENDING
3204 APPERSON DR....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50008513 ... $325,000
4106 CYNTHIA DR....Lisa Russell ... $310,000
2407 TERRACE AVE....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... $300,000
2102 PRINCETON....Leah Watkins ... MLS #50010427 ... $299,500
4700 BISHOPS CASTLE....Susan Palmer ... MLS #50009643 ... $297,000
5406 SAN SABA CT....Gina Reyes ... MLS #50008830 ... $295,000
905 PINE CT....DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50010956 ... $293,000
409 MEL OTT....Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50010839 ... SALE PENDING
4005 SPRING MEADOW LANE, #5....Kay Rivers 934-5995 ... SALE PENDING
2521 MOSS AVE....Cheryl Parrish ... MLS #50009731 ... $279,900
5409 SHAWNEE....Yvonne Gabaldon 210-6666 ... MLS #50010926 ... SALE PENDING
2905 SKYLINE....Lydia Scudder 853-2200 ... $279,000
2905 DOUGLAS....Karen Foster ... SALE PENDING
414 W. SPRUCE....Susan Palmer ... SALE PENDING
6001 MEDINA DR....Leah Watkins 559-2187 ... SALE PENDING
4909 KING RANCH RD....Pam Dodd ... $268,000
1200 PRAIRIE LANE....Leah Watkins 599-2187 ... MLS #100034433 ... $250,000

1018 MOSS....Denise Brasher ... $255,000
5306 CANADIAN....Pam Dodd 413-0780 ... SALE PENDING
6009 KING RANCH RD....Pam Dodd 413-0780 ... $250,000
4510 ST. ANDREWS DR DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50012043 ... $250,000
4002 MELVILLE...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50011838 ... $249,900
4606 BISHOPS CASTLE DR. Cheryl Parrish 352-3053 ... MLS #50003188 ... $249,900
3501 CLAREMONT DR....Darla Davis 260-8077 ... MLS #50001061 ... $249,000
3213 DENYCREST DR....Stacy Gonzalez ... MLS #50011594 ... $239,900
2609 CULVER....Lavonne Johnson ... MLS #50011907 ... $239,000
3305 EDGEMONT DR....Leah Watkins ... $239,000
513 COLISEUM CT....Tina Atkins 661-0067 ... MLS #50009916 ... SALE PENDING
5210 CANADIAN....Danny Omar ... MLS #50003775 ... $235,000
2601 DOUGLAS....Pam Dodd ... SALE PENDING
1603 NEELY AVE....Martha Manulik 557-8744 ... MLS #50004091 ... $232,500
604 S. JACKSON....Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50007040 ... $230,000
1109 HILLTOWN RD....Darla Davis 260-8077 ... MLS #50008001 ... $229,900
2412 EMERSON CT....Cheryl Parrish ... MLS #50009158 ... $229,900
2604 GODDARD DR....Ashley St. John ... MLS #50012193 ... SALE PENDING
405 CRENSHAW DR....Leah Watkins 599-2187 ... MLS #50004711 ... $225,000
3601 STANOLIND....Danny Norwood 413-2764 ... $225,000
3405 BOYD AVE....Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #50007035 ... $225,000
3604 SINCLAIR....Darla Davis 260-8077 ... MLS #50009605 ... $224,900
900 SHEA LN....Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #50003252 ... $223,000
3611 PRINCETON....Donna Omar ... $220,000
3203 W. SHANDON....Martha Manulik 557-8744 ... MLS #50001315 ... $215,200

3605 JORDAN AVE....Skye Farris ... $213,000
2603 BOEING DR....Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50010224 ... SALE PENDING
605 WAVERLY DR....Skye Farris ... MLS #50006416 ... $200,000
2202 N. D ST....Larry Hatfield ... MLS #50011463 ... $199,900
2506 HOYA DR....Leah Watkins 599-2187 ... MLS #50002192 ... $195,500
307 S. EISENHOWER....Wendy Waddell ... $187,000
729 SHELL AV....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50011599 ... $182,900
4405 PARKDALE DR....Cheryl Parrish ... MLS #50009781 ... $179,900
4323 PRINCETON AVE....Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50011268 ... $169,000
3239 WHITTLE WAY....Leah Watkins 559-2187 ... $169,000
305 S. DALLAS ST....Darla Davis ... MLS #50002162 ... $167,000
3621 W. HIGHGAR....Susan Palmer ... MLS #50011506 ... SALE PENDING
5206 SUNNYSIDE DR....Martha Manulik ... MLS #50004108 ... $165,000
4709 CUTHBERT AVE....Melody Carroll ... MLS #50011040 ... $160,000
5204 SAN ANTONIO....Danny Norwood ... MLS #50004827 ... $159,000
3105 OFLAND AVE....Wendy Waddell 638-9955 ... MLS #50006353 ... $159,000
1511 PUEBLO DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50012061 ... $158,000
4702 COMANCHE....Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #50006821 ... $149,000
3009 W. OHIO...Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ... MLS #50011286 ... $135,000
610 W. KANSAS....Reace Rivera 230-8647 ... MLS #50008662 ... $135,000
3100 FRANKLIN AVE....Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50011869 ... $134,900
1009 BOGFORD....Cheryl Parrish ... MLS #50003570 ... $134,000
1510 E. SCHARBAUER DR....Lisa Russell 741-5864 ... MLS #50004057 ... $128,000
4405 PARKDALE....Danny Norwood 413-2764 ... $124,900
4013 CHEROKEE DR....Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50011055 ... SALE PENDING

ONE/TWO BEDROOMS IN MIDLAND

4724-B HARVARD AVE....Stephanie Masterson 556-1584 ... $158,000
3330 CALDERA #140...Cheryl Parrish ... MLS #50006509 ... $110,000

HOMES IN MIDLAND COUNTY

6400 E. CO. RD. 93...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ... MLS #108422 ... $999,000
6700 W. CO. RD. 44...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50010101 ... $850,000
5293 S. CO. RD. 1065...Ashley St. John ... MLS #50009655 ... SALE PENDING
7213 E. CO. RD. 114, GREENWOOD...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633...MLS #50009497 ... $630,000
7100 E. CO. RD. 114...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50009494 ... SALE PENDING
7110 E. CO. RD. 114...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50010571 ... $510,000
3009 S. CO. RD. 1057, GREENWOOD...Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50011257 ... $489,000
12197 W. CO. RD. 52...Lisa Russell 741-5864 ... MLS #108736 ... $484,000

2205 E. CO. RD. 140...Donna Omar ... $310,000
1608 S. CO. RD. 1110, GREENWOOD...Darla Davis ... MLS #50011618 ... $310,000
1002 E. CO. RD. 120 Andrea Snell 559-4417 ... MLS #50008114 ... SALE PENDING
3709 W. CO. RD. 145...Danny Norwood 413-2764 ... $309,900
3700 W. CO. RD. 145...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #50008046 ... 10 Acres/$305,000
7308 E. CO. RD. 61...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... SALE PENDING
10909 E. CO. RD. 100...Lisa Russell 741-5864 ... MLS #108961 ... 8.51 Acres/$299,000
9103 W. CO. RD. 108...Lisa Russell 741-5864 ... MLS #50001570 ... $285,000

4010 N. CO. RD. 1270...Kay Rivers 934-5995 ... MLS #50008485 ... $249,500
10000 ECR 108....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50012060 ... $249,000
4607 S. CO. RD. 1177...Darla Davis 260-8077 ... MLS #50005740 ... $245,000
6100 E. CO. RD. 90....Tracy Farrow 413-441 ... MLS #50011504 ... SALE PENDING
10601 E. CO. RD. 104, GREENWOOD...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633 ... SALE PENDING
4010 N. CO. RD. 1270...Kay Rivers 934-5995 ... MLS #50008450 ... SALE PENDING
7606 E. CO. RD. 90....Tracy Farrow 413-4412 ... MLS #50011838 ... $194,900
3210 S. HWY. 349...Kim Merrill ... MLS #50012162 ... $149,000

HOMES OUTSIDE OF MIDLAND COUNTY

14600 585 N., BROWNWOOD, TX Donna Omar 349-1458 ... MLS #50008668 ... $998,500
CO. RD. 240A, COMANCHE TX....Melody Carroll ... MLS #50011044 ... 199.301 Acres/$750,000
5011 CO. RD. 1214...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50011954 ... $475,000
401 4TH ST., STANTON, TX Lisa Russell ... MLS #50004541 ...
14 SUSSEX DR., ODESSA...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #105380 ... $340,000
3016 SAN PEDRO, ODESSA...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #50005362 ... $315,000
COLORADO CITY....Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #50006943 ... 10 Acres/$300,000
3039 CO. RD. 210, HUBBARD CREEK LAKE-BREKENRIDGE...Josie Alvarez ... $275,000
6969 KING RANCH RD., ODESSA...Pam Dodd 413-0780 ... $260,000

4010 N. CO. RD. 1270...Kay Rivers 934-5995 ... MLS #50008485 ... $249,500
6955 107, ODESSA...Pam Dodd 413-0780 ... SALE PENDING
6293 SCR 1105....Kay Rivers 934-5995 ... MLS #50008719 ... $210,000
1716 ROSEWOOD AVE., ODESSA...Darla Davis ... MLS #50011953 ... $295,000
6725 CORNELL AVE., ODESSA...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #102876 ... $294,000
1100 E. 44TH, ODESSA...Leah Watkins 599-2187 ... MLS #50007312 ... $260,000
2291 S. 3RD, LAMESA...Larry Hatfield 349-4788 ... MLS #50008975 ... $199,000
499 OLD COURSE RD....Amanda Gunter ... MLS #104104 ... $195,000

409 E. 16TH STREET, ODESSA...Amanda Gunter 413-7330 ... $189,900
14241 LOYOLA, GARDENDALE...Leah Watkins ... MLS #50002358 ... $189,500
9421 LAMAR AVE., ODESSA...Darla Davis ... MLS #105231 ... $175,000
912 CORONADO...Jerrilyn Garrison 202-0276 ... MLS #100010 ... $169,000
10975 E. EMERSON ST., GARDENDALE...Leah Watkins 599-2187...MLS #50004438 ... $133,000
5252 I AXE CO. RD. 250...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #106038 ... $99,400
11070 GRAHAM WAY...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50006084 ... SALE PENDING
300 N. AVENUE O, LAMESA...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50007972 ... SALE PENDING

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL

0 LOOP 250...Susan Palmer ... MLS #50010731 ... $1,717,950
4309 S. CO. RD. 1131, GREENWOOD...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633...MLS #50009272543 Acres/$1,375,000
9700 FM 307....Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50005743 ... $860,000

9504 N. CO. RD. 1150...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50011407 ... SALE PENDING
4902 N. MIDKIFF...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50011741 ... SALE PENDING
1291 N. CO. RD. 1151...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50010162 ... SALE PENDING

200 S. COLLEGE, STANTON...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633 ... MLS #50007163 ... $385,000
1913 MCCALL, ODESSA...Ashley St. John ... MLS #50010655 ... $299,000
401 MIDLAND DR. Lydia Scudder 853-2200 ... MLS #103597 ... $99,000

LAND AND LOTS

3302 S. CO. RD. 1050, GREENWOOD...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633 ... MLS #50010433 ... 89 Acres/$1,540,950
4309 S. CO. RD. 1131, GREENWOOD...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633 ... MLS #50011832 ... 43 Acres/$1,375,000
9700 FM 307...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50005743 ... $860,000
3701 CARDINAL LN....Pam Dodd ... $850,000
N. CO. RD. 1250...Reannah Glover ... MLS #107805 ... 70.3 Acres/$483,500
4110 E. CO. RD. 130...Kim Merrill ... MLS #50011627 ... 10 Acres/$295,000
2500 S. CO. RD. 1290...Lisa Russell 741-5864 ... MLS #50001167 ... 2 Acres
CO. RD. 60 W. AND 1253...Lavonne Johnson 770-3883 ... MLS #50007449 ... 3 Acres/$150,000
MARTIN CO.... Michelle Lesikar 730-3633 ... MLS #50007174 ... 10 Acres/$110,000

6400 W. CO. RD. 41, LOT 1, BLOCK 6...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50010937 ... 3.550 Acres/$99,000
6401 W. CO. RD. 41, LOT 1, BLOCK 8...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50010935 ... 3.650 Acres/$99,000
6407 W. CO. RD. 41, LOT 2, BLOCK 8...Sandy J. Hanson 638-3819 ... MLS #50010934 ... 3.540 Acres/$99,000
12104 E. CO. RD. 91...Josie Rendon 889-8394 ... MLS #50012020 ... $75,000
QUAIL RIDGE SUBDIVISION...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... 94 Lots Available/Starting @ $42,500
3368 SENNA LANCE, GRADY ISD...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633 ... $34,500
3372 SENNA LANCE, GRADY ISD...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633 ... $32,000
3373 SENNA LANCE, GRADY ISD...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633 ... $30,400

2004 FORSLOVE ST., GRADY ISD...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633 ... $29,504
3377 SENNA LANCE, GRADY ISD...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633 ... $29,400
3376 SENNA LANCE, GRADY ISD...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633 ... $29,200
203 N. CARVER....Leah Watkins 599-2187 ... MLS #50007179 ... $29,000
3367 SENNA LANE, GRADY ISD...Michelle Lesikar 730-3633 ... $26,240
1309 E. HICKORY....Karen Foster 559-4086 ... Lot/$10,900
1205 E. HICKORY....Karen Foster 559-4086 ... Lot/$11,500
1207 E. HICKORY....Karen Foster 559-4086 ... Lot/$11,500

TOWNHOMES-PATIO HOMES

905 PINE CT.... DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50010956 ... $300,000
2018 MOSS AVE... Denise Brasher ... MLS #50011498 ... $250,000
4005 SPRING MEADOW LANE, #5....Kay Rivers 934-5995 ... SALE PENDING
2018 MOSS....Karen Mason ... MLS #50001761 ... $229,900
4516 FAIRGATE DR.... Gina Reyes ... MLS #50009741 ... SALE PENDING
2102 TEALWOOD....Danny Norwood 413-2764 ... MLS #50007626 ... $191,500
2104 FREEPORT LN....Stephanie Rogers 978-975/ ... MLS #50012111 ... SALE PENDING

4500 LAMAR....Susan Palmer ... MLS #50010953 ... SALE PENDING
2415 IDLEWILDE, UNIT 13 Wendy Waddell 638-9955 ... MLS #50007200 ... $125,000
4700 BOULDER DR. #407...DeLaura Gammage 288-3880 ... MLS #50010840 ... $60,000

FOR LEASE

2401 DARTMOUTH....Denise Brasher ... MLS #50011708 ... $1,500/MONTH
4315 ST. ANDREWS...Pam Dodd 413-0780 ... $2,400/MONTH

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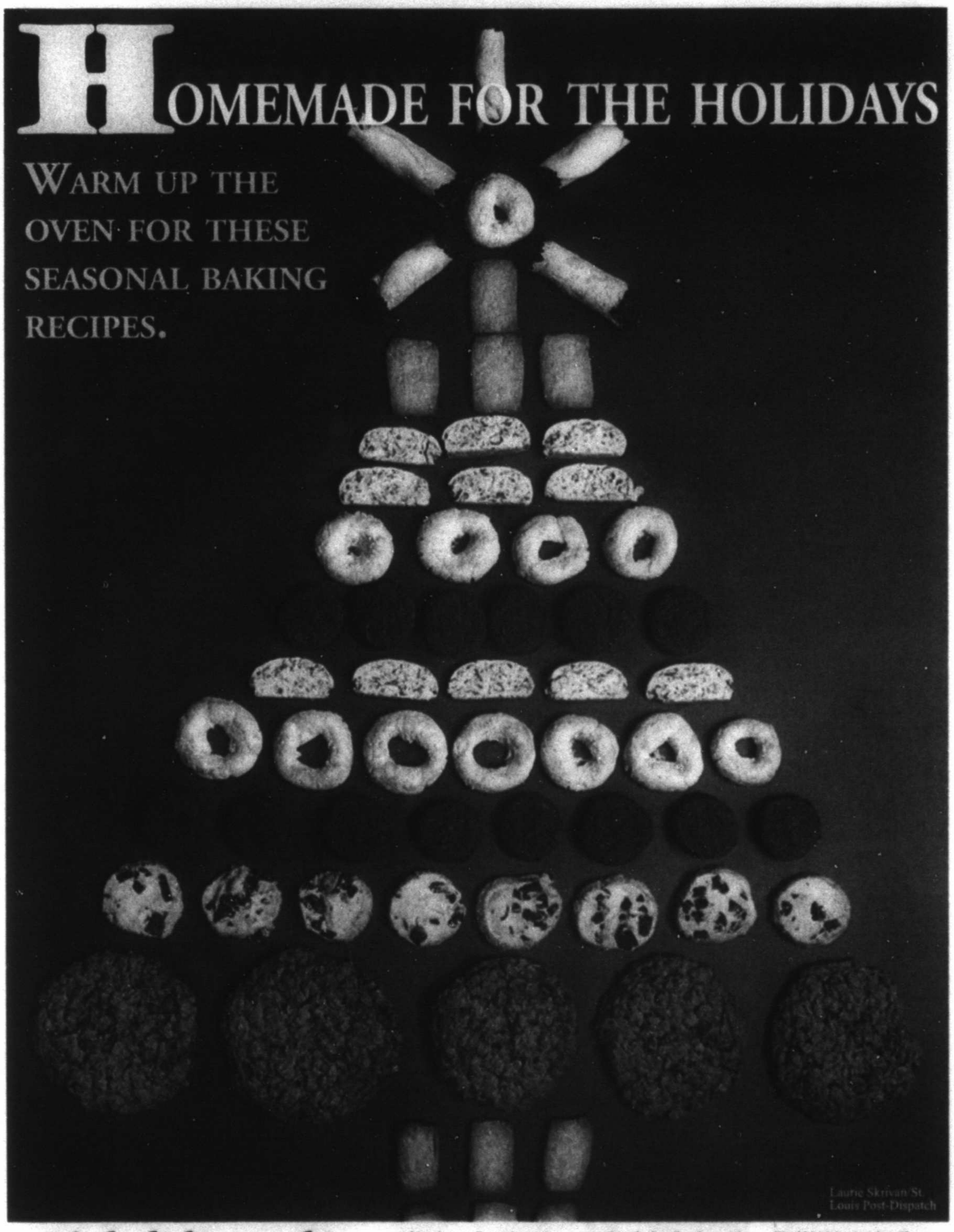


Laurie Skrivan/St. Louis Post-Dispatch

It's holiday cookie time: 7 recipes to try

By Daniel Neman
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The merriment of the holidays is built on many things: Cheerful wishes of happiness and goodwill from strangers. Cultural memories of sleigh rides across fields of sparkling snow. Even the joy to be found in giving gifts to friends and loved ones.

But really, what makes the holidays merry and bright are all the cookies. How could they not? Cookies are the ornaments that we hang on the Christmas tree of life.

This season, I made seven batches of cookies (so far). That's a lot of sugar and butter, some of which ended up on the floor, but it was worth it.

I started, ominously, with a mistake. I was paging through a French cookbook, saw a recipe for croquets and thought, in my inattentiveness, that it was a recipe for croquantes. In my defense, it was right above a recipe for cream-filled croquantes, so you can understand the confusion.

Croquantes are thin, rolled, buttery cookies, which is why you can fill them with cream. Croquets are thick, hard, crispy cookies that are France's version of biscotti and cannot be filled with cream or anything else.

So I made the croquets, which have a lovely almond flavor kissed with a hint of lemon. They were light enough that they were easy to eat, which was fortunate because they tasted so good I couldn't stop at just one. Or two. Or three.

Next, I went ahead and made the cream-filled croquantes, which were more of a treat than I had even hoped.

I began with my favorite recipe for a simple tuile (croquantes are somewhat thicker than tuiles, and therefore crunchier). The trick to rolling tuiles, and also croquantes, is knowing when to begin.

If you start to roll them as soon as they come out of the oven, they will tear. If you wait too long, they will cool down and become too stiff to wrap around a pencil or the handle of a wooden spoon, which is what I used. You will find success if you place them on the parchment paper onto a wire rack immediately after taking them from the oven, and waiting one minute before starting to roll them.

You have to act quickly, though, because they will soon start to harden. That is why I never cook more than four at a time.

Filling them was easy. I made a ganache with crème fraiche instead of cream, and it was a simple matter to pipe it into the rolled cookies. Then I dipped each end into a bowl of chocolate sprinkles to make them more festive.

It wouldn't be the holidays without chocolate chip cookies, and I simply had to make a batch when I found a recipe with this name: Salted Butter and Chocolate Chunk Shortbread, or Why Would I Make Another Chocolate Chip Cookie Ever Again?

Astonishingly, the cookies actually lived up to their name. I think the secret is that they are made with shortbread — crisp, buttery shortbread that is somehow just sweet enough. The fact it is loaded with chocolate certainly helps. And don't forget the salt on top; it helps to make the flavor explode.

Will I ever make another chocolate chip cookie ever again? Probably. But right now I see no particular reason to.

The most sophisticated cookies I made are so elegant that they were originally called "biscuits."

Chocolate Sandwich Cookies (I changed the name from the British term) come to us from Claridge's, England's toniest hotel. Fancy hotels have fancy restaurants, and fancy restaurants

Please see COOKIES/4E

5 QUESTIONS

With Jeremy Baumgardner | Permian Basin LGBTQ (plus)

By profession, Jeremy Baumgardner is a certified pharmacy technician, although currently he works in the hotel/hospitality field. He is president of the nonprofit Permian Basin LGBTQ (plus), an organization that works to advocate for and support the LGBTQ community and its allies through events, activities and services. When he's not working on either, Baumgardner enjoys his down time with his miniature schnauzer, Bailey. To learn more about Permian Basin LGBTQ (plus), visit pblgbtq.org.

MRT: What's been the best piece of advice you've received?
Baumgardner: Treat those as you'd like to be treated.

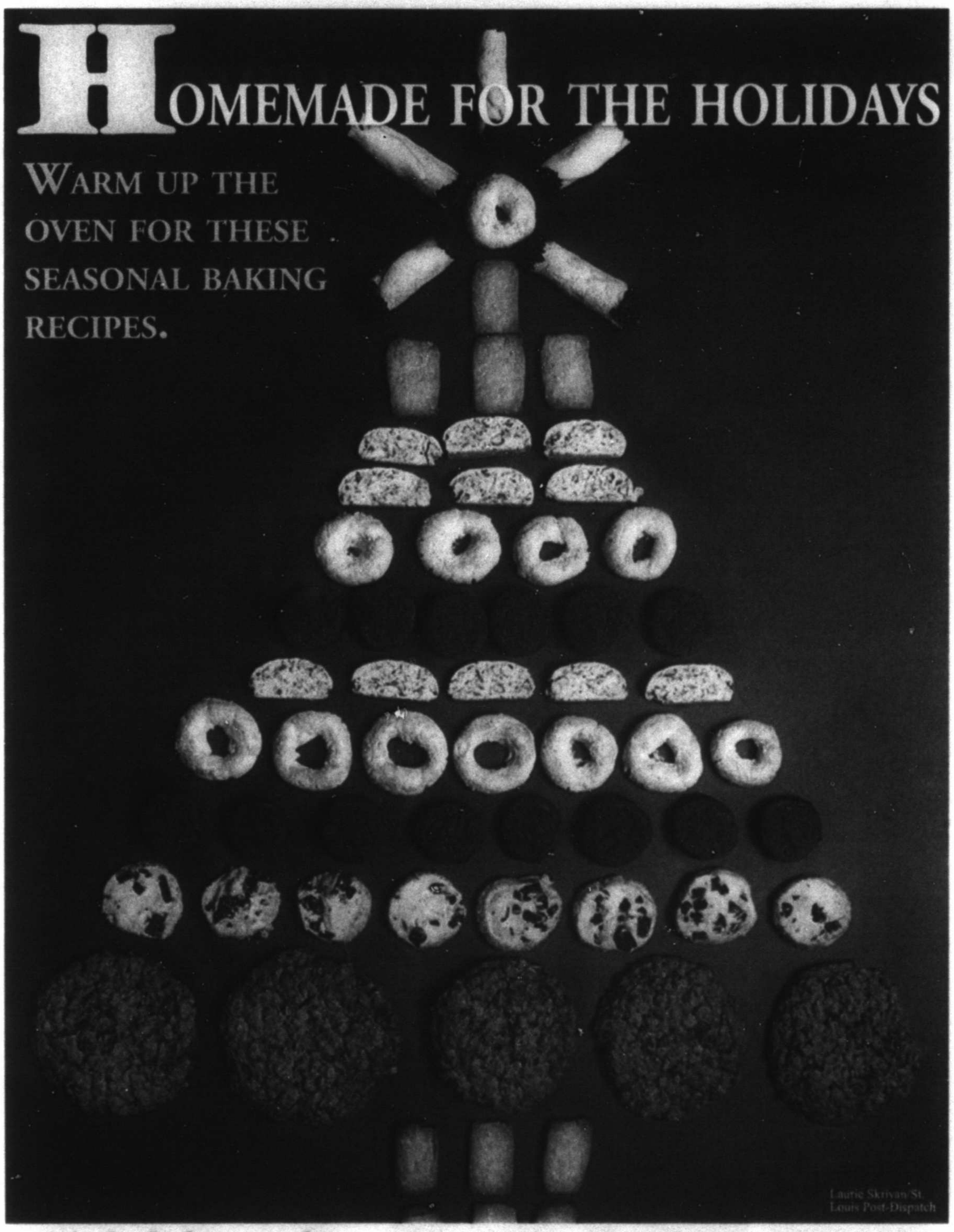
Baumgardner

MRT: What would you say is your best quality and why?
Baumgardner: Honesty and loyalty. I'll always tell you the truth and stand by you if ever you need me, day or night.

MRT: What is the best thing you cook?
Baumgardner: Definitely, my pork loin roast, pinto beans and fresh green beans.

MRT: Your not-so-secret indulgence:
Baumgardner: Coconut cream pie.

MRT: What book do you always recommend?
Baumgardner: "American Savage: Insights, Sights, and Fights on Faith, Sex, Love, and Politics" by Dan Savage



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OUT&ABOUT

by Julie Donnelly

SOCKTOBERFEST

Ashlee Stacey, left, and Carlos Chavez

SOCKTOBERFEST

Mark Lowe, from left, Tom Hyde and Bob Davis

To have an event included in "Out and About," contact Julie Donnelly at mrtjulie@outlook.com.

ROTARY, GHS INTERACT DONATE SOCKS TO CHURCH

The Rotary Club of Midland teamed up with members of the Greenwood Interact Club this school semester to package socks for the homeless. The socks were then given to the Church Under the Bridge Ministry for distribution.

SOCKTOBERFEST

Ashlee Stacey, from left, Tricia Redwine, Frank Vitrano and Emily Spaulding

WEST TEXAS ASTRONOMERS

Michael DeShazo, left, and Shelley Ingram

WEST TEXAS ASTRONOMERS MEET

The West Texas Astronomers had a Christmas party in conjunction with the club's monthly meeting on Dec. 11 at University of Texas of the Permian Basin's CEED Building. Members and guests brought items for WTA's toy drive benefiting Toys for Tots.

President Michael DeShazo presented Shelley Ingram with an award for her service as treasurer of the organization. She is moving to Houston to assume a new position with Dawson Geophysical Co.

Also at the meeting, new officers were elected: Charles Hemann, president; Bruce Moore, vice president; Jim Camp, secretary; and Love SwimmingBear, treasurer.

Midlander Dorothy Ames Hoover celebrated her 105th birthday Dec. 9 with family and friends and the patrons of Moon Garden, her favorite local restaurant. Among patrons she visited with was Henry Gonzales, a Spanish teacher at Lakeview High School in San Angelo, who wished her happy birthday in Spanish. She told him she took Spanish in college but did not excel at the pronunciation. When Dorothy spoke a sentence from her college Spanish class, he told her she would be an inspiration to his students. Dorothy lives at Brookdale Senior Living and moved to Midland from Kansas several years ago to be near her youngest sister, Helen, who is 90.

COTERIE CLUB

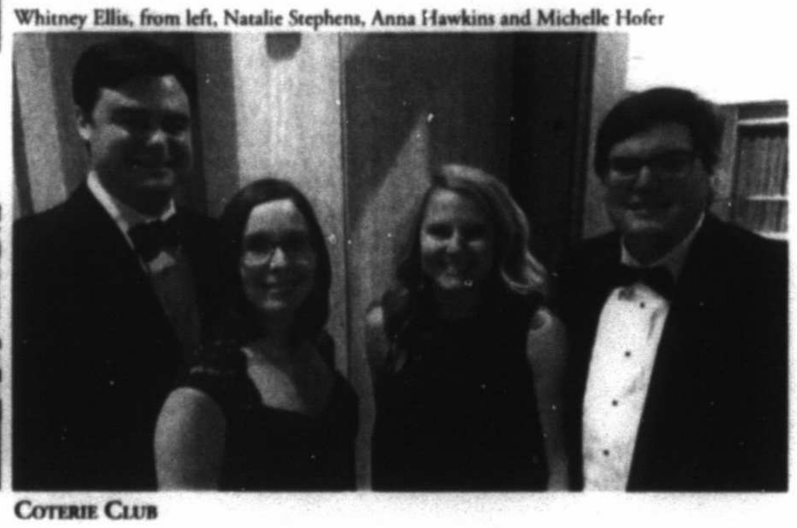
Drew and Kyla Hendricks, from left, Brian and Amanda Fralin and Colby and Katie Marcum

COTERIE CLUB

Whitney Ellis, from left, Natalie Stephens, Anna Hawkins and Michelle Hofer

SOCKTOBERFEST

Larry Carroll, from left, Tom Segulia and Bob Bivens



COTERIE CLUB

Stephen and Leah Robertson, from left, and Claire and Monty Statton

GOREN BRIDGE

With Bob Jones

Think ahead

Both vulnerable, North deals

NORTH
♠ K 6
♡ 10 4
◇ A J 10 9 3
♣ K 7 6 2

WEST
♠ 10 9
♡ J 8 5
◇ Q 6 5 4
♣ Q 10 9 8

EAST
♠ J 8
♡ A K Q 9 7 3 2
◇ K
♣ A 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q 7 5 4 3 2
♡ 6
◇ 8 7 2
♣ J 4

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♡	Dbl	1♠	Pass
2♣	2♡	2♠	3♡
3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♣

North did a lot of bidding with his modest hand, and South was happy to go on to game when North voluntarily raised his suit. Could he make it?

South won the opening spade lead in dummy and led the 10 of hearts. This was an effort to cut the communication between the defenders. East won with the queen of hearts and reverted to spades, South winning the ace. With the trumps now drawn, declarer led the eight of diamonds, running it when West played low. East won with the king and led the ace of hearts, ruffed by South. Declarer led a diamond to dummy's jack for the good news and the bad news. The good news was that the jack won the trick. The bad news was that East showed out. There was no entry back to the South hand to repeat the diamond finesse, so the best he could do was to cash the ace of diamonds, ruff a diamond, and lead a club toward the king. When that lost to the ace, the contract was down one.

South was unlucky to find the diamonds splitting 4-1 and the ace of clubs off side, but he could have done better. Instead of running the eight of diamonds on the first round of the suit, he should have led a low diamond to the jack. He could then run the eight of diamonds on the second round of the suit, holding the lead in his hand to repeat the diamond finesse.

COTERIE CLUB

Jennifer and Taylor Sell

COTERIE CLUB MARKS 71ST ANNIVERSARY

The Coterie Club of Midland recently celebrated its 71st anniversary at the Petroleum Club. Members and guests enjoyed a buffet of beef tenderloin, smoked salmon, stuffed mushrooms, fried quail, crispy shrimp and a wedge salad buffet. Members danced to the band Current Nine throughout the evening.

About 200 couples belong to the club. Members of the 2017 Coterie Club board are Julie Donnelly and her husband, Garret, president; Breanne and Wes Reeves, vice president; Mary and Joseph Baker, treasurer; Julie and James Griffis, secretary; and Brooke and Spencer Robnett, decorations.

During the band's first intermission 71 new members were introduced.

BRIDGE

PERMIAN BRIDGE CLUB

DEC. 4

Charlie Grimes-Ann Servatius, Audie Brooks-Marlene Blumentritt, Linda McDonald-Terri Melton, Belle Harris-Don Troy, Betty Moore-Linda Buzan, Kay Sewell-Greg Keys

DEC. 5

Bob Bacon-James Hawkins, A. Brooks-Bill Brooks, Patti Heard-Tommie Strack, Troy-Blumentritt, Ricki Perry-Bonnie Hubbard, Shirley Davenport-Buzan

DEC. 7

Gloria Jackson-Blumentritt, Dorothy Brenneman-Paula Baggett, Helen Davis-Peggy Cook, Georgia Temple-Marilyn Higgins, Debbie Conner-Sandy Hill, Linda Farrar-Lonnie Yee

B. Brooks-Betty Moore, Sewell-Keys, A. Brooks-Paula Bayley

Blumentritt-Jackson, B. Brooks-Moore, Sewell-Keys, Brenneman-Baggett, A. Brooks-Bayley, Davis-Cook, Temple-Higgins, Conner-Hill, Farrar-Yee

DEC. 8

Bacon-Hawkins, Martha Poss-Perry, A. Brooks-B. Brooks, Debbie Conly-K.C. Evans, Kay Arrell-Strack, Heard-Hubbard, Moore-Buzan, Janet Stoltz-Baggett

DEC. 10

Evans-Conly, Lena Nichols-Higgins, Baggett-Heard, Bacon-Brenda Brauner, Troy-Yee, Marilyn Matthews-Deborah Brookins, Strack-Perry, Buzan-B. Brooks

SWEET SLICES (TRANCHES SUCRÉES)

Yield: About 36 cookies

- 7 tablespoons butter, chilled and diced
- 1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour, plus extra for dusting
- 3/4 cup superfine sugar, see note
- 2 eggs, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons sanding sugar (decorating sugar)

Note: To make superfine sugar, place granulated sugar in a blender and process on high for about 15 seconds, until almost powdery.

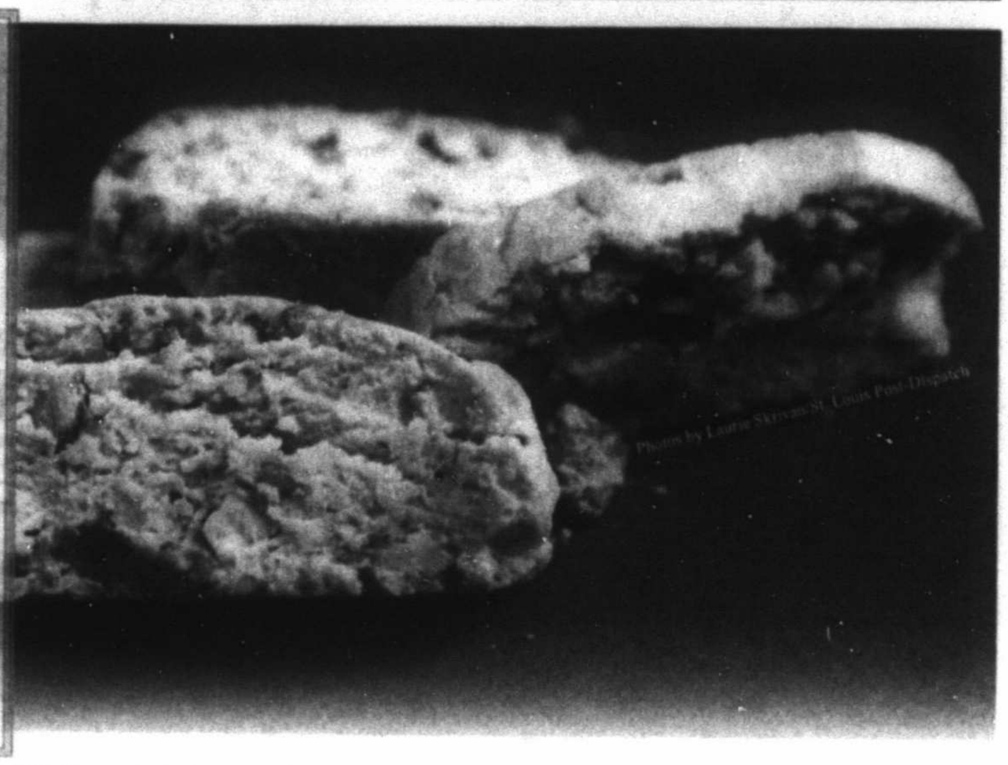
1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment, or grease it with additional butter.

2. Place the chilled butter and flour in a mixing bowl and rub together until the mixture resembles bread crumbs. Stir in the sugar, 1 egg and the baking soda. Do not add water, because the dough should be firm. Knead the dough briefly until it all comes together.

3. Dust the counter with flour and roll out the dough to a thickness of 1/4 inch. Beat the remaining egg and brush over the dough to glaze. Cut into rectangles, approximately 21/2-by-11/4 inches. Sprinkle generously with the sanding sugar, then place on the prepared baking sheet and bake for 15 to 20 minutes (watch carefully, because they quickly burn).

Per cookie: 58 calories; 3 g fat; 2 g saturated fat; 16 mg cholesterol; 1 g protein; 8 g carbohydrate; 3 g sugar; no fiber; 22 mg sodium; 3 mg calcium

Recipe from "The Art of French Baking," by Ginette Mathiot



SALTED BUTTER AND CHOCOLATE CHUNK SHORTBREAD

Yield: About 32 cookies

- 18 tablespoons (21/4 sticks) salted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 21/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 8 ounces semi- or bittersweet dark chocolate, chopped into chunks (do not chop too fine)
- 1 large egg, beaten
- Demerara or turbinado sugar, for rolling
- Flaky sea salt, or kosher salt

1. Line one or two rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. Using an electric mixer and a medium bowl or a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter, both sugars and vanilla on medium-high until it's very light and fluffy, 3 to 5 minutes. Use a spatula to scrape down the sides of the bowl. With the mixer on low, add the flour, followed by the chocolate chunks, and beat just to blend.

3. Divide the dough in half, placing each half on a large piece of plastic wrap. Fold the plastic over so that it covers the dough (this will protect your hands from getting sticky). Use your hands to form the dough into a log shape about 2 to 21/2 inches in diameter. Rolling it on the counter will help smooth it out; it does not have to be perfect. Refrigerate until very firm, about 2 hours.

4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brush the outside of the logs with the beaten egg and roll them in the demerara or turbinado sugar.

5. Slice each log into 1/2-inch-thick rounds, place them on the prepared baking sheets about 1 inch apart and sprinkle with flaky or kosher salt. Bake until the edges are just beginning to brown, 12 to 15 minutes. Cool on the baking sheet for 1 minute, then transfer to a wire rack.

Per cookie: 147 calories; 9 g fat; 5 g saturated fat; 23 mg cholesterol; 1 g protein; 17 g carbohydrate; 9 g sugar; 1 g fiber; 55 mg sodium; 8 mg calcium

Recipe from "Dining In," by Alison Roman

BERLIN RINGS (COURONNES DE BERLIN)

Yield: About 18 cookies

- 4 eggs, divided
- 1/2 cup superfine sugar, see note
- 2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted
- 10 tablespoons (1 1/4 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons sanding sugar (decorating sugar)

Note: To make superfine sugar, place granulated sugar in a blender and process on high for about 15 seconds, until almost powdery.

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment, or grease with additional butter.

2. Hard cook 2 of the eggs. Remove their yolks and mix these thoroughly with the yolks of the 2 remaining raw eggs, retaining the raw egg whites. Discard the cooked egg whites. Stir the superfine sugar into the yolk mixture, and then, adding a little at a time, the flour and butter. Knead the dough until it is smooth.

3. Break off large, walnut-sized pieces and roll these out, using the palms of your hands, to form cylinders. Join their ends to form rings and place on the prepared sheet. Whisk the remaining raw egg whites until they form soft peaks and brush over the cookies to glaze. Sprinkle with the sanding sugar and bake for 20 to 30 minutes.

Per cookie: 164 calories; 10 g fat; 6 g saturated fat; 65 mg cholesterol; 3 g protein; 15 g carbohydrate; 5 g sugar; 0 g fiber; 17 mg sodium; 11 mg calcium

Recipe from "The Art of French Baking," by Ginette Mathiot

CHOCOLATE SANDWICH COOKIES

Yield: 30 cookie sandwiches

- 11 3/4 ounces dark chocolate (at least 55 percent cocoa solids) broken into pieces, divided
- 3 ounces heavy cream
- 1/2 tablespoon honey
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup demerara or turbinado sugar
- 3 1/2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 6 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon bread flour or all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- Pinch of salt

1. Make the ganache: Melt 2 3/4 ounces of the chocolate in a double boiler (heatproof bowl placed over a saucepan of simmering water) or simply in the microwave. In a small saucepan, bring the cream and honey to a boil over medium heat, then remove from the heat. Pour a third of the hot cream into the melted chocolate. Using a spatula, stir briskly to incorporate the cream. The chocolate might look grainy and split at this point — don't worry if it does. Repeat twice more, adding another third of the cream at a time. The chocolate should be smooth and glossy. Add the 2 tablespoons of softened butter and stir well.

2. Use the spatula to scrape down the sides of the bowl and place a sheet of plastic wrap directly on the surface of the ganache to prevent a skin from forming. Leave to sit at room temperature for at least 6 hours, preferably 12 to 24 hours.

3. Make the cookies: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl, whisk the eggs and sugar together until just combined. Leave this to rest for 20 minutes.

4. Over low heat, melt the remaining 9 ounces chocolate and the 3 1/2 tablespoons of butter together in a pan, stirring until well-combined. Whisk the melted chocolate into the egg and sugar mixture. Once incorporated, stir in the flour, baking powder and salt. Cover with plastic wrap directly touching the surface until the mixture sets, about 10 to 20 minutes (the cooler the spot the less time it takes, but do not be tempted to refrigerate it).

5. While the dough is resting, use a pencil to draw 30 circles 1 1/4 inches in diameter (about the size of a 50-cent piece) on each of 2 sheets of parchment paper, allowing room between them for the cookies to spread. Flip parchment over on 2 baking sheets, so the pencil drawings are face down. Use a piping bag and tip (or a resealable plastic bag with a small hole cut in one corner for the tip) and pipe out the mixture to cover each of the circles. Use a wet finger or the back of a spoon to smooth the tops of these mounds, as needed.

6. Bake 10 minutes, or until the cookies feel crisp on the edges but are still soft in the middle. The surfaces will look cracked. Leave to cool completely on the baking sheets.

7. To assemble, match the cookies in equal-sized pairs. Use a piping bag and tip, a plastic bag and tip, or just a small spoon to portion out about 1 teaspoon of the ganache on to the center of the flat side of half the cookies. Then top with the remaining cookies and gently press the ganache to the edges. The cookies will keep for 3 days at room temperature in an airtight container.

Per cookie sandwich: 127 calories; 8 g fat; 5 g saturated fat; 22 mg cholesterol; 1 g protein; 12 g carbohydrate; 8 g sugar; 1 g fiber; 19 mg sodium; 19 mg calcium

Recipe from "Claridge's: The Cookbook," by Martyn Nail and Meredith Erickson

FRENCH BISCOTTI (CROQUETS DE CARCASSONNE)

Yield: About 36 cookies

- 2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted, plus extra for dusting
- 4 medium eggs, divided
- 1/2 cup superfine sugar, see note
- Grated zest of 1 unwaxed lemon
- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- Generous 1 cup whole almonds, roughly chopped

Note: To make superfine sugar, place granulated sugar in a blender and process on high for about 15 seconds, until almost powdery.

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or grease with additional butter. Pile the flour in a mound on the counter and make a well in the center. Beat 3 of the eggs in a small bowl. Place the sugar, beaten eggs and lemon zest in the flour well and stir with your handheld like a paddle, gradually incorporating a little of the flour. Stir in the softened butter and almonds and, finally, incorporate the rest of the flour. Work the dough briefly. You can also accomplish this process with an electric mixer on its lowest speed.

2. Turn the dough onto a floured counter and use a large, heavy kitchen knife to roughly "chop" it until you have broken up the almonds. Knead the dough until it is thoroughly combined; divide in half, and shape it into two thick cylinders. Place these on the prepared sheet and flatten slightly. Beat the remaining egg and use to glaze the dough.

3. Bake 15 minutes, then raise the oven temperature to 400 degrees. Bake for an additional 10 minutes, or until lightly browned. Using a sharp, serrated knife, immediately cut both "loaves" into 1/2-inch-thick slices. Carefully lay the slices flat on the baking sheet and return to the oven for a few more minutes, turning them once so that they brown lightly on both sides.

Per piece: 76 calories; 4 g fat; 1 g saturated fat; 22 mg cholesterol; 2 g protein; 8 g carbohydrate; 2 g sugar; 1 g fiber; 7 mg sodium; 15 mg calcium

Recipe from "The Art of French Baking," by Ginette Mathiot

CHOCOLATE CREAM-FILLED CROQUANTES

Yield: About 14 cookies

- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons (41/2 ounces) granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup sifted cake flour or all-purpose flour
- 2 large egg whites
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, melted
- 8 ounces chopped semisweet chocolate
- 1/2 cup crème fraîche, see note
- 1/4 cup chocolate sprinkles

Note: Crème fraîche is available in the dairy section of fine grocery stores. If you cannot find it, use heavy cream.

1. Place the sugar and flour in a medium bowl and whisk to blend. Whisk in the egg whites and vanilla until well-blended. Whisk in the melted butter until a smooth, thin batter is formed. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

2. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and position an oven rack in the center. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicon mat. Drop about 1 tablespoon of the batter onto the mat. Use a thin spatula, preferably offset, to spread the batter into a thin circle about 4 inches in diameter. Make 3 more circles, spacing them 3 to 4 inches apart. Bake 7 to 9 minutes, until the edges are golden brown but the center is still pale.

3. Transfer cookies to a rack and let cool for 1 minute, until they can be loosened and lifted from the sheet without tearing. Wrap the cookies loosely around a clean pencil, small dowel or the handle of a wooden spoon until they harden. Allow to cool completely before adding filling.

4. Place the chocolate in a small heatproof bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water. Heat, stirring occasionally, until smooth. Remove from heat and add the crème fraîche, stirring well. If using heavy cream, place the chopped chocolate in a heatproof bowl, heat the cream to just under boiling and pour it over the chocolate. Allow the mixture to stand for 1 minute, then stir until smooth.

5. Let the filling cool slightly and place into a pastry bag or resealable plastic bag fitted with a large plain tip. Pipe the filling as far as possible into both ends of all the cookies, and then coat the rims of each cookie on the outside with the filling. Dip the ends of each cookie into a bowl of the chocolate sprinkles. As the filling cools, they will adhere firmly.

Per piece: 208 calories; 12 g fat; 8 g saturated fat; 20 mg cholesterol; 2 g protein; 26 g carbohydrate; 20 g sugar; 1 g fiber; 14 mg sodium; 13 mg calcium

Cookie recipe from "The Art and Soul of Baking," by Cindy Mushet. Filling recipe from "The Art of French Baking," by Ginette Mathiot

OATMEAL RAISIN COOKIES

Yield: 6 enormous cookies or 12 large cookies

- 1 cup plus 1 teaspoon all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 1/4 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/4 cup plus 11/2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup plus 31/2 tablespoons lightly packed light brown sugar
- 11 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1/4 cup (beaten eggs
- 1 1/4 teaspoons vanilla extract or paste
- 2 cups old-fashioned oats
- 1 cup raisins or mix of black and golden raisins

1. Place the flour in a medium bowl. Sift in the cinnamon and baking soda, add the salt and whisk together. Whisk together the granulated and brown sugars in a small bowl, breaking up any lumps.

2. Place the butter in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Turn to medium-low speed and cream the butter until it is the consistency of mayonnaise and holds a peak when the paddle is lifted. Add the sugars and mix for 3 to 4 minutes, until fluffy. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl. Add the eggs and vanilla and mix on low speed for 15 to 30 seconds, until just combined. The mixture may look broken, but that is fine (overwhipping the eggs could cause the cookies to expand too much during baking and then deflate).

3. Add the flour mixture in 2 additions, mixing on low speed for 15 to 30 seconds after each, until just combined. Scrape the bottom of the bowl to incorporate any dry ingredients that have settled there. Stir in the oats and raisins until thoroughly combined. Refrigerate the dough for 30 minutes.

4. Position the racks in the upper and lower thirds of the oven and preheat to 325 degrees. Line 2 baking sheets with silicone baking mats or parchment paper.

5. For gigantic cookies, use a 21/2-inch ice-cream scoop to divide the dough into 6 equal portions. For large cookies, divide dough into 12 equal portions. Roll each portion into a ball between your hands.

6. For gigantic cookies, place 3 of these dough balls on each prepared baking sheet, placing each one as far away from the others and the sides as possible. For large cookies, place 6 balls on each prepared sheet.

7. Bake until golden brown, 21 to 23 minutes for gigantic cookies (15 to 17 minutes in a convection oven) or 18 to 20 minutes for large cookies (14 to 16 minutes in a convection oven). Reverse the positions of the pans halfway through baking. Set the pans on a cooling rack and cool for 5 to 10 minutes, then transfer the cookies to the rack to cool completely.

8. The cookies are best the day they are baked, but can be stored in a covered container for up to 3 days.

Per cookie (based on 12): 301 calories; 12 g fat; 7 g saturated fat; 47 mg cholesterol; 4 g protein; 46 g carbohydrate; 26 g sugar; 2 g fiber; 257 mg sodium; 38 mg calcium

Recipe from "Bouchon Bakery" by Thomas Keller and Sebastien Rouxel

COOKIES

From 1E

make very fancy cookies.

This particular variety takes two light and moderately chewy chocolate cookies, not unlike a chewy meringue, and puts them around a rich layer of silken ganache. They are simply exquisite and, of course, in impeccable taste.

The next cookie I made was more of a crowd-pleaser, more democratic and every bit as desirable. They are called Sweet Slices, and they are a remarkable demonstration of what can be done with just a few simple, basic ingredients.

All you need are butter, flour, sugar, eggs and a touch of baking soda, plus sanding sugar for decoration (sanding sugar is just sugar in large, pretty crystals and can be found in the baking aisle of grocery stores).

When combined in the proper proportion (i.e., lots and lots of butter), these make surprisingly light, surprisingly crisp cookies with a subtly wholesome flavor and the perfect amount of sweetness.

Those same ingredients, minus the baking soda, are all that are used in the very different Berlin Rings that I made next. These have a European sensibility to them, with a highly refined flavor born from hundreds of years of cookie evolution.

By themselves, they are a little dry. But serve them with ice cream or tea or coffee, and watch how great they can be as an enhancer rather than a solo dessert.

For my final batch, I turned to Thomas Keller, who is considered by many to be the finest chef in America. His recipe for Oatmeal Raisin Cookies won't make anyone think less of him.

Yes, they are only oatmeal raisin cookies. But then again, they are oatmeal raisin cookies as perfected by perhaps the finest chef in America. And they are utterly spectacular.

They are also huge. I'm not going to lie. They are the size of a small Frisbee. You could make them smaller if you want to, but why would you want to?

Baking, like much alchemy, is a matter of precision. Keller and his staff have devised the precise formula for the most satisfying oatmeal raisin cookie, ever. The cinnamon, sugar and butter are balanced in perfect harmony with the oats, flour and eggs. Vanilla brings the flavors together, while the raisins serve as sweet, delightful jewels to treasure throughout the cookie.

Just a bite or two, and you will be looking forward to the holidays as that time of year when you make oatmeal raisin cookies.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Love the Starbucks Cranberry Bliss Bar? Re-create your own

By Rick Nelson
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Peppermint white chocolate mochas and eggnog lattes are certainly top sellers this time of year at the 13,000-plus Starbucks outlets nationwide.

But what lures many devotees into the nation's largest coffee chain during November and December is the company's seasonal baked-good behemoth, the Cranberry Bliss Bar.

And why not? It's brilliant, and irresistible: a moist, dense, blondie-like base that's enriched with white chocolate and crystallized ginger. A lavish cream cheese icing is tickled with citrus and finished with a decadent white chocolate drizzle. And there's plenty of festive, seasonally appropriate dried cranberries. It has been making the season merry for years.

For those interested in re-creating baked "Bliss" at home, forget about getting the recipe from Starbucks; the company did not return requests for so much as a morsel of information regarding its über-popular holiday baked goodie.

Thankfully, the Oregonian, the daily newspaper in Portland, wasn't nearly as reticent.

"I know the whole story of this particular recipe," said food and entertainment writer Grant Butler.

Type "Cranberry Bliss Bar recipe" into Google, and page after page of facsimiles pop up. The one that bakers should rely upon originates with the Oregonian. Eleven years ago, Linda Faus, then the paper's test kitchen director, was publishing a column that re-created restaurant dishes.

"She had numerous requests for Cranberry Bliss Bars, but she couldn't get Starbucks to share the recipe," said Butler. "That's when she decided to crack the code herself."

Aided by test kitchen assistant Nathan Hostler, Faus got to work, with colleagues providing feedback as they enjoyed each variation.

The resulting recipe was an instant — and, as it turns out, enduring — hit. Still, Cranberry Ecstasy Bars isn't the newspaper's most-requested recipe; that honor belongs to a buttermilk biscuit formula (find it at bit.ly/2i117kM).

"But it's in our Top Five, for sure," said Butler. "It's certainly better than the Cranberry Bliss Bar sold at Starbucks. Think about it. The Starbucks version was baked who knows how long ago in a factory, where it was frozen, and then later thawed at the store. Linda's version is fresh. They're insanely great."

CRANBERRY ECSTASY BARS

Makes 16 triangle-shaped bars.

Note: Starbucks currently uses orange zest rather than lemon zest in its Cream Cheese Frosting. Adapted from Linda Faus of the Oregonian.

For bar cookies:
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cups (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature, plus more for pan
- 1 1/4 cups firmly-packed light brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup minced dried cranberries
- 1 1/2 ounces white chocolate, chopped
- 1/4 cups minced crystallized ginger

For frosting:
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, at room temperature
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup plus 3 tablespoons sifted powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly grated lemon zest
- Pinch of salt
- 1/3 cup minced dried cranberries

For White Chocolate Drizzle:
- 1 ounce white chocolate
- 1/4 cup sifted powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon milk

To prepare bar cookies: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with parchment paper and then butter the paper.

In a medium bowl, sift together flour, ground ginger and salt, and reserve.

In a bowl of an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat butter until creamy, about 1 minute. Add light brown sugar and beat until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add eggs and vanilla extract, and beat until fully combined. Reduce speed to low, add flour mixture and mix until just combined. Fold in dried cranberries, white chocolate and crystallized ginger.

Spread batter in prepared baking pan and bake until golden brown, about 20 to 25 minutes. Remove pan from oven, transfer to a wire rack and cool completely.

To prepare frosting: In a bowl of an electric mixer on medium-low speed, combine cream cheese, butter, powdered sugar, vanilla, lemon zest and salt, and mix until creamy, about 2 to 3 minutes. Remove cake from pan and trim off the edges. Using an offset spatula or the back of a large spoon, uniformly spread the frosting across the top of cake. Sprinkle minced dried cranberries on top of frosting. Refrigerate for 1 hour.

To prepare White Chocolate Drizzle: In a double boiler over gently simmering water (or in a bowl in a microwave oven), melt white chocolate. Remove from heat, add powdered sugar and milk and whisk until fully combined. Scrape White Chocolate Drizzle into a small, sturdy plastic bag; cut a tiny corner of the bag and squeeze to decorate. Decoratively drizzle the White Chocolate Drizzle over the top of the entire frosted cake. To serve, slice the cake lengthwise down the center, creating two long rectangles. Cut each rectangle into 4 equal portions; then slice each of these in half diagonally.

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When it comes to choosing pie, apple is a flavor we can all agree on

By Leah Eskin
Chicago Tribune

Apple first. That's our policy. Special interests may back pumpkin, pecan or mincemeat. But citizens across the political spectrum agree on apple. That's good news at the holidays, when we gather at one big table.

APPLE PIE

Prep: 1 hour, 15 minutes, plus time to cool

Bake: 1 hour

Makes: One 9-inch pie (serves 8), plus 3 cups roasted sugar

Inspired by (but not faithful to) "BraveTart: Iconic American Desserts" by Stella Parks.

Crust:
- 1 recipe no-stress all-butter pastry, half fit into a 9-inch pie plate the other half rolled into a 13-inch round, both chilled (see note)
- About 3 cups granulated sugar, optional

Filling:
- 3 pounds (about 6 large) tart apples such as Granny Smith, Albemarle Pippin or Gold Rush
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2/3 cup (packed) light brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons tapioca flour (aka starch)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 pinch kosher salt

Egg wash:
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon heavy cream
- 1 pinch kosher salt

Parbake: Adjust oven rack to the lower-middle position and heat to 350 degrees. Line the chilled pastry with foil, draping it loosely over edges. Fill with granulated sugar (alternatively, use baking beans). Set on a baking sheet. Bake until pastry is set and golden, about 1 hour. Lift out the foil. If pale, continue baking until lightly colored, 5-10 minutes. Let cool. Roasted sugar can replace granulated sugar in other recipes; it offers a hint of caramel flavor. Cool, seal and store.

Wilt: Peel, core, halve and slice apples crosswise into 1/4-inch thick half-circles. (An apple peeler contraption makes quick work of the job.) In a wide skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Slide in apples and toss to coat. Cover and cook, stirring regularly, until apples lose their snap, about 7 minutes. Uncover and stir in brown sugar, tapioca, cinnamon and salt. Cook until syrup begins to thicken, 1 minute. Let cool.

Fill: Scrape cooled apples into cooled pie shell. Drape the top pastry over apples, trim edge to 3/4-inch overhang. Fold the overhang under itself, covering the parbaked edges (no need to unite baked and unbaked pastry, they will join forces in the oven). Chill firm, 30 minutes

Bake: With rack still in lower-middle position, heat oven to 400 degrees. Whisk together egg wash, and brush over chilled pie. Cut in a starburst of vent slits. Set pie on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake until top is golden brown, center is bubbly and 195 degrees, about 1 hour. (Pull out pie before it reaches 200, warns Parks. That's when apples break down to mush.) If top is browning too quickly, cover loosely with foil. Cool at least 1 hour before serving. To restore crisp crust later, reheat at 350 for 10 minutes.

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Best no-stress pie crust: The roll and fold method

By Leah Eskin
Chicago Tribune

The pastry investigator hews to scientific method. She formulates her hypothesis: Pastry perfection rests on the ratio of flour to fat to water.

She gets to work — years of false starts and soggy pies. Just as she is underlining her final formula — 2 cups flour, 2 sticks butter, 1/2 cup water — she learns that her colleagues have derived the identical equation. In science, corroboration is good.

She notes subtle distinctions. Each recipe calls for the same ingredients, same proportions, different procedure.

Back in the lab, she runs a trial. One technique specifies dicing the butter into 512 cubes, rubbing 256 into the flour and stirring the remainder in whole. Others cut butter into flour via mixer, food processor or spatula. The final method skips the cut-in. It's simply toss, roll, fold.

The scientist bakes and tastes. Out of a sample size of five, four are good. One is stunning. It's nothing but flake — crisp, layered, lovely flake.

For humanitarian reasons, she halts her research and releases the results: The roll method is not better. It's the best.

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NO-STRESS ALL-BUTTER PIE PASTRY

Prep: 15 minutes

Makes: Pastry for one double-crust, 9-inch pie
- 8 ounces (about 1 3/4 cup) all-purpose flour such as Gold Medal, plus more for dusting
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons Crystal Diamond kosher salt (half as much if iodized)
- 2 sticks cold unsalted butter cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1/2 cup cold water

1. Smash: Sift flour into a medium bowl. Whisk in sugar and salt. Toss butter cubes with flour. Roughly smash each cube flat — nothing more! Stir in water and knead briefly into a ball.

2. Fold: Transfer to a floured work surface, sprinkle with flour, and roll into a 10-by-15 inch sheet, positioned vertically. Fold top edge down and bottom edge up to meet in the center. Fold left edge to meet right, as though closing a book. Fold top to meet bottom, forming a thick block. Cut the block in half.

3. Roll: Dust with flour and roll one portion into a 13-inch round. Brush off excess flour, drape over a 9-inch pie plate. Trim to a 1 1/4 inch overhang; fold under to create a 3/4-inch border that rests on the rim of the plate. Wrap in plastic and chill 2 to 24 hours. Roll remaining dough into a 13-inch round, rest on a baking sheet, cover with plastic and chill 2 to 24 hours.

4. Plot: Pastry is ready to be filled and baked, or it can be frozen for up to 3 months and thawed in a refrigerator. Thinking of apple pie? Coming next week!

Provenance: Adapted from "BraveTart: Iconic American Desserts" by Stella Parks.

From a cake mix comes ... cookies!

Dear Heloise: You have a recipe for cookies from cake mixes that I've always loved. Sadly, when we moved to a new house, I must have lost the recipe. Could you reprint it for me? — Ada F., Sparks, Nev.

Ada, it's one of my favorite recipes, and it's so easy to make. Here it is:

Heloise's Cookies from Cake Mix

Choose any flavor of cake mix you'd like, and add up to 1/4 cup of nuts, raisins or chocolate chips or any combination of these three ingredients.

- 1 (18.25-ounce) box of cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup of vegetable oil

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Mix ONLY the

Hints from Heloise
King Features Syndicate

above ingredients in a large bowl until blended. Drop the batter by spoonful onto an UNGREASED baking sheet about 2 inches apart. Bake for eight to 10 minutes. You must watch carefully, because they brown very quickly. Ovens vary, so stand by for the first batch.

With the holidays already here, why spend hours in the kitchen when you can use recipes that give you more time with your friends and family? — Heloise

Carrot connoisseur

Dear Heloise: Both my husband and I love fresh carrots from the garden. However, my husband is English, and he believes that carrots should be boiled until they are very soft, just as his mother fixed them when he was a boy. I think they lose most of their nutrients and are just plain unappetizing prepared that way. How should carrots be cooked? — Lucy R., Falmouth, Maine

Lucy, the way carrots are cooked depends in part on personal preference. Some people like carrots soft, but I like mine steamed. I cut up young carrots to about 1/4- to 1/2-inch pieces, then I steam them for about five to six minutes. This way, they retain some of their crunchy texture, and there is less vitamin C loss. If you want a softer carrot, steam them for about 10 to 12 minutes. I also like carrots baked, because it brings out a nutty/smoky taste when they are roasted about 20 minutes. Try one of these methods and see how you and your husband like carrots cooked some way other than boiling. — Heloise

It's too raw

Dear Heloise: When I see a commercial about steak, it's always half-raw in the middle. Is that the proper way to cook a steak? — Gina W., Bossier City, La.

Gina, you should cook your steak to your own tastes. Since there are so many illnesses caused by bacteria, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends cooking meat to an internal temperature of at least 145 degrees F. You might prefer a higher internal temperature, but again, it all depends on your personal preference. — Heloise

The American Coot

Michael Price
Wild About Texas, Special contributor

There is an old saying "If it looks like a duck and acts like a duck, then it must be a duck." However, there is a species of bird that is often mistaken for a duck because of its appearance and aquatic tendencies, but is actually NOT a duck. That bird is the American Coot.

The American Coot (*Fulica americana*) is a common bird year-round throughout much of the western United States, including all but the Upper Gulf Coast region of Texas. There it is common only in the winter months. It can be observed on just about any large body of permanent to semi-permanent bodies of freshwater.

At first glance, this particular species of aquatic bird appears to be rather drab in coloration. However, it is upon closer examination (often through the aid of binoculars) that this bird's true beauty can be appreciated. The wings and stout body are a shade of dark gray, almost black, oftentimes with a light sprinkling of white dots on the chest area. The small head and thick neck are black, and there is a peppering of white dots that surround the bright red eyes. Mature adults also have a red frontal shield just above the short white bill that extends onto the forehead. The short legs are typically an olive hue. Both sexes are similar in appearance, with body lengths of about 15 inches and a wingspan of just over two feet.

Coots are commonly observed while foraging for food either on land along the waters edge or while casually swimming on the surface. Its gait while on land makes it appear lazy and clumsy, almost chicken-like with its head bobbing back and forth. However, if it feels threatened, it is quick to take to the waters to paddle away to a safe distance from a potential predator. While searching for food along the shoreline, it immerses its head and neck into the shallow waters, leaving just its backend and tail tipped up above the surface. When foraging in deeper waters, it will dive up to twenty-five feet below the surface to obtain its food. It feeds primarily on roots of aquatic plants, although a variety of other items such as leaves, seeds, insects, and small amphibians are also consumed.

The flight pattern is a simple one, with the wings beating rapidly as it flies in a fairly straight line. If disturbed while swimming, it will run across the surface of the water to obtain enough momentum to achieve flight.

These birds are typically found in small groups of two to four animals, although they will often congregate in larger flocks when they are searching for suitable feeding areas, particularly while on land. They pair up during the breeding season, with the male and female remaining monogamous during this time. The males actively pursue the females during courtship, many times chasing her across the surface of the water. The female responds with nasally hoarse grunts when she is receptive to her mate. The pair assists each other with the building of the floating nest, which is made primarily from dead stems. Both sexes also incubate the eggs, which are pinkish in coloration, are about 2 inches in length, and number anywhere from two to twelve. Incubation time is about three weeks in length. The young are precocial, which means that they are born with their eyes open, have a covering of down, and have the ability to leave the nest within a day of hatching. The hatchling birds are taken care of by both sexes, and most begin flight at about seven weeks of age. Each pair of adults will have one to two broods annually.

The American Coot is a common to nearly abundant bird throughout its range in Texas. Many are observed while foraging in lawns along lakes and large ponds, including in many city parks. It can be quite wary of anything that it perceives as a potential threat, so having a good pair of binoculars handy is a must for close-up viewing.

Michael Price is the owner of Wild About Texas, an educational company that specializes in venomous animal safety training and ecotourism. Contact him at wildabouttexas@gmail.com

Dad is obsessed with who will inherit his possessions

Dear Abby
Universal Press Syndicate

DEAR ABBY: My father — 68, active and in good health — has become increasingly obsessed with deciding who will get which of his belongings when he passes. Almost every conversation now consists of some form of "Do you think your cousin Joey would like my antique fishing lure collection?" I'm glad he's thinking ahead and putting his affairs in order, but it has been months since we've been able to talk about normal things, and I feel like he's missing out on living in the present.

I finally had to tell Dad to stop asking my young kids which of his childhood toys they would like when he dies because it was freaking them out. They no longer want to go over there because they're terrified he's going to keel over in front of them.

How do I get him to stop this, move on and continue living his life? I'm pretty sure he doesn't have an illness he's keeping secret. Obsessiveness is normal for him, but this topic is new. — ADULT SON IN FLORIDA

DEAR ADULT SON: Have you asked your father directly what has caused this change in his behavior? If you haven't, you should. Have you any idea how long it has been since his last physical and neurological examination? If it has been more than a year, suggest the two of you go together to make absolutely sure nothing is wrong with him.

Because you prefer he stop talking about death and distribution of assets with your children, let him know that today's young people prefer electronic gadgets rather than the toys he played with in his youth. It's the truth, and he needs to hear it.

DEAR ABBY: I belong to a group of men who play golf twice a week. After a round of golf, we'll have a couple of pitchers of beer to relax. We take turns buying the beer for the group, but there is no set rotation. Sometimes you may buy two pitchers, others you don't buy any.

One member of the group drinks the beer but never buys, even when it's obvious that he hasn't after many opportunities. Several of us are upset by his selfishness, and we have made comments to him about it. They roll off him like water off a duck's back. How do you think we should handle this selfish individual? — STEP UP TO THE BAR IN TEXAS

DEAR STEP UP: Try this. Hand him the bill and say, "It's *your* turn!" But if that doesn't work, next time make it each man for himself and switch to bottles or glasses.

DEAR ABBY: Every Christmas, my daughter-in-law makes plans with her family on Christmas Day when they come in from out of town. I cannot remember the last time we had a Christmas Day with our son. We are not even invited over for a cup of coffee. Any suggestions? — UNHAPPY HOLIDAYS IN NEBRASKA

DEAR UNHAPPY HOLIDAYS: Yes. I think in the interest of fairness, alternate Christmas Day — odd years with one set of in-laws, even years with the other. However, if that doesn't work, an alternative might be to invite everyone — including the other in-laws — to your home. If you haven't talked to your son and DIL about it, you should.

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SUNDAY MORNING — DECEMBER 17, 2017

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	G	S	R	C	W	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	In Touch Ministries		GMA/Sunday		The Truth	House	Matter	This Week		Church	J.Jones	Paid
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	Homeo.	Carrasco	First Baptist Church		CBS Sunday Morning (N)			Face the Nation		Mission	First Baptist Odessa	
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	Hunters	Hunters	Beakman	Beakman	Bill Nye	Bill Nye	SaveBell	SaveBell	SaveBell	SaveBell	Brady8.	Brady8.
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	Extra	W.Minist	Insight	FaithAve	Fox News Sunday		Odessa	Garret	NFL Kickoff (L)		Fox NFL Sunday (L)	
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Light of Southwest		Essentials	Mission	In Touch Ministries		On Wings	Messiah	Shepherd's Heart		Nueva Vida	
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	Minute	Secrets	In Search	B&N Min.	Sunday Today (N)		Meet the Press (N)	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	A Sesame Christmas		D.Tiger	Splash8.	Sid	Cat	Jet Go!	Wild Kratts		Arthur	Cyberch.	Essentrics
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Pagado	Pagado	Programa pagado		Notas divinas		Al punto		Aquí y ahora		Como dice el dicho	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		LatMot.	Latino	Spaces	Homeo.	Green	Hazelton	PosPaulo	Garden	First Baptist Church		The NFL Today	
FLIX	340	575		165		C ••• Hardball ('01, Dra) Keanu Reeves.				C •• Outlander ('08, Sci-Fi) James Caviezel.				C ••• Child's Play 2		Movie	
HBO	300	550	14	14		8:00 C Gone in 60...		Boxing HBO After Dark -- Montreal, Que.					1stLook	C The Great Wall Matt Damon.		Happen	
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	Conchrds (2017) 1stLook	Aug Baltimore Rising			(11:15) C •••• Get Out ('17, Hor) Daniel Kaluuya.				VicePrt.	VicePrt.	VicePrt.	VicePrt.
HBO5	304	552	16	102		(9:34) C •• Sister Act		(2:15) C ••• Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit		(2:15) C ••• Gran Torino ('08, Dra) Clint Eastwood.						(:20) C Criminal Ac...	
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(9:55) C •••• The Verdict		(6:45) C Caught in the Crossfire						(1:15) C •••• Urban Cowboy ('80, Dra) John Travolta.		Movie	
MAX2	382	558	18	122		(3:20) C The Brothe...		(11:15) C The Divergent Series: Allegiant						(2:20) C Flight of the Phoenix Dennis Quaid.		(:15) C Big Miracle	
PLEX			96			(5:55) C The Jane Austen Book ...		(2:45) C ••• Chaplin ('92, Bio) Robert Downey Jr.						(1:15) C •• Flyboys ('06, Act) James Franco.			
SHOW	320	545	19	140	25	(5:15) C Weird Science		Inside the NFL		C ••• Legends of the Fall Brad Pitt.				(2:15) C Personal Shopper Kristen Stewart.			
TMC	336	579	22	155	26	(5:40) C Christmas R...		(3:10) C •• Jane Wants a Boyfriend.						(:55) C Stolen Nicolas Cage.		C ••• Darkman Liam Neeson.	
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	Dog B.H.	Dog B.H.	Dog B.H.	Dog B.H.	Dog B.H.	Dog B.H.	OzzyandJack		OzzyandJack		OzzyandJack	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	MASH	M*A*S*H	MASH	C ••• The Nativity Story					C ••• White Christmas ('54, Mus) Bing Crosby.			
BET	58	-		40		D. Grier	BET Rel	Yellow.	Abundant	Browns	Browns	Browns	Browns	Browns	Browns	(:00) C To Be Ann...	
BRAVO	65	76		41		Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills		Beverly Hills		WatchWhatHappens		Tardy...	Tardy...
CNBC	46	52		39	72	(5:30) Paid Program											
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	New Day Sunday		Inside Politics		State of the Union		Fareed Zakaria GPS		Reliable Sources		State of the Union	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Bushcraft Build-Off		Bushcraft Build-Off		Bushcraft Build-Off		Bushcraft Build-Off		Homes "Hawaii"		Homes "Tiny Houses"	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Puppy	Mickey	Puppy	Vamp	Elena	Tangled	Tranayt	StuckMid.	C Descendants 2 ('17, Fant) Dove Cameron.			
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		Sunday NFL Countdown (L)					
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	Cornhole Southern College Championship				E:60 (N)		Fantasy Football Now (L)					
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	(5:00) FOX & Friends Sunday						Morning Futures		MediaBuzz		America's News HQ	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Outv. Christmas		Rules	Heart	Barefoot Contessa		Barefoot Contessa		Holiday	Holiday	Big Bite	Pioneer
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	C Mickey's Once Upon a Chris...		C •• Christmas With the Kranks Tim Allen.						(:40) C The Nightmare Before...		(:20) C The Polar E...	
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	Diaries	Thunder	Cowboys	Snowbl	Paid	Paid	K.S. Scoreboard		XPoints	Texans	Focused	Xterra
FX	31	56	59	64	69	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mother	Mother	Mother	Mother	C ••• Dumb and Dumber To Jim Carrey.			
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	(5:00) C A Dream of...		C A Rose for Christmas Rachel Boston.				C Ice Sculpture Christmas Tonya Alberi...				C Once Upon a H...	
HGTV	83	69	26	48	44	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper	
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Top Gear		Top Gear		Counting Cars: Drive "Soap Box" (N)						Counting	Counting
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	In Touch Ministries		Amazing	David Jer.	J.Osteen	Paid	C ••• Stepmom ('98, Drama) Susan Sarandon, Ed Harris, Julia Roberts.					
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	USNBC	Business	PoliticsNation (N)		MSNBC Live (N)		AM Joy (N)				MSNBC Live (N)	
NBCSN	38	43				A.League '2011-12' (N)		Leauge Live (L)		(:10) EPL Soccer Man. Utd. vs West Brom (L)				(:15) Live	(:25) EPL Soccer Liverp Yillou. (L)		
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	ALVINNN	ALVINNN	P Ranger	Mysticon	Sponge	Sponge	C Tiny Christmas Lizzy Greene.			Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Paid Program		Paid Program		Off-Road	E. Power	Truck Y.	D.Muscle	C •• Draft Day ('14, Spt) Kevin Costner.			
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(5:00) Paid Program		Twilight	? Nation			C Silent Hill: Revelation 3D Sean Bean.				C Lake Placid vs. Anaconda	
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Queens	Queens	Friends	Friends	C •• The Hulk ('03, Sci-Fi) Jennifer Connelly, Eric Bana.						C ••• True Lies Jamie Lee Curtis.	
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(5:00) C Mutiny on the Bounty		(:45) Movies "Merry Christmas"				C •••• The Postman Always Rings Twice				(:15) C Christmas In...	
TELE	20	-	10	20		Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Pagado	Liga extra	(:25) EPL Fútbol Liverp Yillou. (L)		
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Yes Dress	Harry Met Meghan		90 Day Fiancé	
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	(:20) C ••• Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones Ewan McGregor.								(:25) C •• Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith			
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	(:10) Chris	(:25) G. Girls	(:25) The Golden Girls	G. Girls	(:25) G.Girls	(:25) G.Girls	(:25) G.Girls	(:25) G.Girls	(:25) The Golden Girls	G. Girls	(:25) G.Girls	
USA	26	55	42	27	49	Paid	T.Paint	In Touch	J.Osteen	Cromartn	Chrisley	Damnation		Law & Order: S.V.U.		SVU "Falsely"	
WGN	19	85				Lord	Creflo	World	Paid	In Heat of Night		In Heat of Night		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops

SUNDAY AFTERNOON — DECEMBER 17, 2017

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	G	S	R	C	W	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	Paid		James Beard Found.		World of X Games		Lights, Camera		American Ninja War.		News (N)	Paid
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	NFL Football New York Jets at New Orleans Saints (L)								(:250) NFL Football New England vs. Pittsburgh (L)			
KWWT CW	5	14		5	14	Brady8.	Brady8.	YF Little House: Bless All the Dear Children				B.Kimahurt	Mary	The Love Boat		The Love Boat	
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at New York Giants (L)						The O.T.	For the Holidays	Paid		Paid	Paid
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Shofar	Mant Erlan	Aleph	Creation	Light of Southwest		Light of Southwest	HaYesod	Hebrew		Jerusalem	Housecall
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	Speed Skating (L)						PGA Golf Father/Son Challenge Site: The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club (L)				Inside Ed.	News (N)
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	W.L.Yoga	Wilderness	Martha	Martha	Chef's	Chef	Great British Baking		Nova		News. (N)	Joy B.
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	La Fuerza de Creer		La Fuerza de Creer		Republica deportiva		Como dice el dicho		Noticias Univision		Nacional	Noticiero
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Wondrwm.	Bucket List	Green	Homes	Cars.TV	A.Athlete	Entertainers		Missing	Carrasco	Outdoor	Outdoor
FLIX	340	575		165		(11:45) ½ ** Focus William H.		(:45) ½ **** Running With Scissors Annette Bening.						½ **** Gangs of New York			
HBO	300	550	14	14		(11:40) Happening		½ Lights Out Teresa Palmer.				(:25) ½ ** Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen				(:55) ½ Warcraft	
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	VicePrt.	VicePrt.	VicePrt.	VicePrt.	VicePrt.	VicePrt.	VicePrt.	VicePrt.	VicePrt.	VicePrt.	VicePrt.	VicePrt.
HBO5	304	552	16	102		Movie		(:40) ½ *** The Royal Tenenbaums		(:40) ½ ** Down With Love Ewan						(:25) ½ **** View From the	
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(11:25) ½ *** Roller Room		(:25) ½ ** Invincible Greg				(:10) ½ Mike & Dave Need W...				(:50) ½ **** Good Will	
MAX2	382	558	18	122		(11:15) ½ Big Miracle		(:05) ½ ** Eddie the Eagle Taron Egerton.				(:55) ½ **** Deadpool				(:45) ½ Neighbors 2: Sorority	
PLEX			96			Movie	Good Ol' Freda			½ *** Cry Freedom ('87, Bio) Kevin Kline.						(:40) ½ *** Flyboys James	
SHOW	320	545	19	140	25	½ Certain Women Laura Dern.				(:50) ½ *** Mother's Day Britt Robertson.		(:50) ½ ** Bad Moms ('16, Com) Mila Kunis.					
TMC	336	579	22	155	26	(:10) ½ Darkman 2: The Return...		(:40) ½ Darkman 3: Die, Dark...				(:15) ½ **** Smokey and the Bandit				½ *** Kingpin	
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	S. Wars	Storage W.	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	S. Wars	½ *** The Next Three Days Russel			
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(:15) ½ **** Miracle on 34th Street Maureen O'Hara.						½ *** Happy Feet ('06, Ani) Elijah Wood, Robin				½ Happy Feet Two	
BET	58	-		40		(11:00) ½ To Be Announced				½ To Be Announced							
BRAVO	65	76		41		Married to Medicine	Housewives Atlanta	Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Housewives Atlanta		Atlanta "Petty Party"	
CNBC	46	52		39	72	(5:30) Paid Program										Shark Tank	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	Fareed Zakaria GPS		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Homes "Waterfront"		Ultimate Homes		Homes "Ranch"		Alaskan Bush People		Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	Descen. (:20) Bunk'd		GoodLuckJessie		Austin	Blizard.	Bunk'd	Jessie	Toy Story ½ **** Toy Story Toon			
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	PBA Bowling		PBA Bowling		NCAA Basketball UNC/Tenn. (L)				E:60		SportsCenter (N)	
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	STIHL Timbersports		STIHL Timbersports		STIHL Timbersports		NCAA Basketball Ohio State vs. Cincinnati (L)				Basketball	
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	America's News HQ		Fox News Sunday		Journal Editorial R.		America's News HQ		Greg Gutfeld Show		America's News HQ	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	The Kitchen		CajunAcc	Food (N)	Chopped		Chopped		Iron Chef: Behind		Iron Chef Showdown	
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(11:20) ½ *** The Polar		PregLand		PregLand ½ *** The Santa Clause ('94, Com) Tim				(:20) ½ How the Grinch Stole			
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Philadelphia Flyers				NCAA Basketball Savannah State at Baylor (L)				Champions Tennis Champions Cup			
FX	31	56	59	64	69	Movie	½ Ride Along ('14, Act/Com) Ice Cube.					½ ** The Heat ('13, Com) Sandra Bullock.				½ ** Grown Ups	
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	(11:00) ½ Once Upon		½ Christmas Next Door Jesse Metcalf.				½ The Sweetest Christmas Lacey Chabert.				½ The Christmas C...	
HGTV	83	69	26	48	44	FlipVega	FlipVega	FlipVega	FlipVega	FlipVega	FlipVega	FlipVega	Flip-Flop	Flip-Flop	Flip-Flop	Flip-Flop	Flip-Flop
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Counting	CountCars	American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers		American Pickers	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	ChloeTrap	Movie	½ Christmas in the City John Prescott.								½ The Flight Befo...	
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	MSNBC Live (N)		MSNBC Live (N)		MSNBC Live (N)		MSNBC Live (N)		MSNBC Live (N)		Meet the Press	
NBCSN	38	43				Soccer	Premier League Goal Zone (L)			Dirt Racing		Curling Olympic Trials (L)				FIS Alpine Skiing	
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Loud H.	Loud H.	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	½ Santa Hunters	
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	Movie	½ *** Forrest Gump ('94, Comedy/Drama) Toby Flint, Gary Sinise, Tom Hanks.							½ **** The Shawshank Redemption			
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	Movie	½ *** 28 Days Later ('02, Hor) Cillian Murphy.							½ *** Seven of the Dead ('04, Hor) Sarah Polley.		Movie	
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	(10:28) ½ *** Tron Line		½ *** Horrible Bosses 2 ('14, Com) Jason Bateman.						½ ** Get Hard ('15, Com) Will Ferrell.			
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(11:15) ½ Christmas		(:15) ½ *** The Bishop's Wife Cary Grant.				(:15) ½ *** Carefree Fred...		(:45) ½ *** Rose, Voyager			
TELE	20	-	10	20		Pódol	La Liga Premier		Enfoque	Shockwave		De chica	De chica	La Abeja	La Abeja	Decision	Noticias
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	(11:00) 90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé "Out of Nowhere"					90 Day Fiancé "Wake Up Call"				90 Day Fiancé (N)	
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	Movie	½ **** Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope							(:15) ½ **** Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back			
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	(10:50) G.Girls	(:20) G. Girls	(:25) The Golden Girls	G. Girls	G. Girls		Raba	Raba	Raba	Raba	Raba	Raba
USA	26	55	42	27	49	Law&O: SVU "Shaken"		SVU "Ripped"		SVU "Paternity"		Law&O: SVU "Retro"		SVU "Wildlife"		SVU "Zebras"	
WGN	19	85				Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Blindl. "Chinatown"	

SUNDAY PRIME TIME — DECEMBER 17, 2017

For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings

	G	S	R	C	W	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
KMID ABC	3	3	4	3	2	C ••• The Sound of Music (1965, Musical) Christopher Plummer, Eleanor Parker, Julie Andrews. A woman leaves an Austrian convent to become a governess to a widower's seven children.								Local 2 News (N)		(:35) Blue Bloods	(:35) Extra Weekend
KOSA CBS	7	7	7	7	7	(5:30) NFL Football	60 Minutes		Wisdom of Crowd "Alpha Test" (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles "All Is Bright" (N)		Madam Secretary (N)		CBS 7 News (N)	(:05) CBS 7 Wire	(:35) Falcon
KWWT CW	5	14			5	14	Touched by An Angel "Statute of Limitations"	Columbo "Sex and the Married Detective" Columbo tracks down a murderess.				Touched by Angel "Promised Land"		Honey-mooners	The Odd Couple	Cheers	B.New-hart
KPEJ FOX	8	5	5	8	3	A Christmas Story Live! Follows nine-year-old Ralphie Parker, who wants a very specific gift for Christmas. (L)						Big Bang Theory	Mom	2 Broke Girls	Inside the Game	Robert Jeffress	Texans 360
KMLM IND	11	12	12	11	11	Mission: M25	Shepherd's Heart	Pto Essentials	Light of the Southwest			Light of the Southwest		Upside Now	Behind the Veil	Wings of Truth	Our Messiah
KWES NBC	9	9	9	9	9	Football Night in America (L)		(:20) NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Oakland Raiders Site: Oakland Alameda Coliseum -- Oakland, Calif. (L)							News10-at 9 (N)	County Reporter	Film Flickers
KPBT PBS	13	13		13	8	(5:30) Joe Bonamassa: Live		Last Tango Halifax "Holiday Special" (N)		Masterpiece Classic "Victoria: Doll 123" The young Victoria struggles to take charge.				Finding Your Roots "Southern Roots"		Speakil. "Nick Mason and David Fricke"	
KUPB UNI	4	4		4	16	Alfombra roja		Premios Univision Deportes				Univision Presen "El Visitante Esperado"		Maria de Todos	Noticiero Univision	Republica deportiva	
KOSA MNT	16	16		16		Bones		Rizzoli & Isles		CSI "Bloodline"		Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Anger M.	Anger M.	Scandal	
FLIX	340	575		165		(4:45) C Gangs of Ne...		C •• Paycheck ('03, Sci-Fi) Ben Affleck.				C •• Forces of Nature ('99, Rom) Ben Affleck.				C •• Outlander	
HBO	300	550	14	14		(4:55) C Warcraft		C •• The Fast and the Furious (:05) C ••				Two Fast Two Furious			(:40) Rolling Stone (N)		
HBO2	302	551	15	101	23	VicePrt.	(:20) VicePrt.	Comedy	(:40) C Wilson Woody Harrelson.			(:20) C ••• American Splendor Paul Giamatti.			(:05) C •••• Logan		
HBO5	304	552	16	102		(:20) C John Wick: Chapter 2 Keanu Reeves.		C ••• Gran Torino ('08, Dra) Clint Eastwood.				C ••• Watchmen ('09, Act) Malin Akerman.					
MAX	380	557	17	120	24	(4:50) C Good Will H...		C •• Independence Day: Resurgence				C ••• Strange Days ('95, Sci-Fi) Ralph Fiennes.				Movie	
MAX2	382	558	18	122		(:20) C The Boss ('16, Com) Melissa McCarthy.		C ••• Dolores Claiborne Kathy Bates.						(:10) C Domestic Disturbance		Movie	
PLEX			96			(4:40) C •• Flyboys		C ••• Chaplin ('92, Bio) Dan Aykroyd, Robert Downey Jr...				(:25) C The Jane Austen Book ...		(:15) C Dr. Lucille: ...			
SHOW	320	545	19	140	25	Shameless		White	SMILF	Shameless (N)	SMILF (N)	SMILF	Shameless			SMILF	Shame.
TMC	336	579	22	155	26	(5:45) C •• Dragon		C •• Out of Sight ('98, Cri) George Clooney.				(:05) C ••• Vertical Limit Chris O'Donnell.				(:10) C Legend of E...	
A&E	27	58	28	35	47	(4:45) C The Next Th...		C ••• The Rock (1996, Action) Nicolas Cage, Ed Harris, Sean Connery.						(:05) S.Wars	(:05) S.Wars	(:45) C ••• The Rock	
AMC	40	74	23	42	51	(5:45) C Happy Feet...		C ••• Scrooged ('88, Fant) Bill Murray.				C ••• Scrooged ('88, Fant) Bill Murray.				C ••• Ghostbusters	
BET	58	-		40		Movie	C To Be Announced								Get Down	Showdown	Showdown of Faith
BRAVO	65	76		41		Atlanta Social (N)		Housewives Atl. (N)		Married to Medicine		Housewives Atlanta		Watch (N)	Housewives	Housewives Atlanta	Wives RU
CNBC	46	52		39	72	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Profit		The Profit		The Profit		Billion Dollar Buyer	
CNN	43	50	51	30	56	CNN Newsroom		CNN Heroes: An All Star Tribute (L)				CNN Heroes: An All Star Tribute				CNN Heroes	
DISC	50	60	31	24	42	Alaska/Frontier		Alaska/Frontier (N)		Alaska/Frontier (N)		Cash Cab	CashCab			(:05) Alaska/Frontier	
DISNEY	56	64	36	25	36	C ••• Toy Story 2 Tom Hanks.		(:45) C ••• Toy Story 3 ('10, Ani) Tom Hanks.				Blizard.	Andi M.	Undere.		Stuck8ME	Bunk'd
ESPN	32	35	48	31	30	SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		MLS Cup	MLS Cup	MLS Cup	MLS Cup			SportsCenter (N)	
ESPN2	34	36	49	32	31	Poker World Series (L)		Poker World Series (L)		Poker World Series		Poker World Series				ESPN FC (N)	
FNC	45	48	53	23	55	FOX Report Sunday		OBJECTified		The Next Revolution		Fox News Sunday				The Next Revolution	
FOOD	64	70	27	68	54	Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Game (N)		Holiday Baking		Cookie Challenge		Cookie Challenge		Holiday Baking	
FREEFORM	53	63	34	42	33	(4:30) C How the Gr...		(:15) C ••• Frozen ('13, Fam) Kristen Bell.						(:45) C ••• National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation			
FSSW	37	38	50	45	29	Bull Riding		Golf Life		Wpt Poker		UFC Main Event (N)	Best of	School (N)		Cowboys	Poker
FX	31	56	59	64	69	(5:00) C •• Grown Ups		C ••• The Night Before				C ••• The Night Before				Mother	Mother
HALLMARK	54	71	58		34	(5:00) C The Christm...		C Christmas Connection Brooke Burns. (P)				C Enchanted Christmas Alma Fendinger.				C My Christmas La...	
HGTV	83	69	26	48	44	Flip-Flop	Flip-Flop	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Hawaii	Bargain	Bargain	Life	Life	Hawaii	Hawaii
HISTORY	71	59	29	50	43	Pickers "Slim Pickings"		American Pickers Enhanced episode of "American Pickers" (N)						(:05) Amer. Pickers		(:05) Pickers	
LIFETIME	28	30	25	28	48	(5:00) C The Flight ...		C A Perfect Christmas List Ben Hollman.				C Wish Upon a Christmas Aimee Adduci.				C A Perfect Christ...	
MSNBC	47	53		49	73	Kasie DC (N)				MSNBC Documentary		MSNBC Documentary		MSNBC Documentary		MSNBC Documentary	
NBCSN	38	43				PL Logo				NASCAR Xfinity Series Award Show (N)				Sport	Sport	EPL Matchday	
NICK	55	-	39	34	37	Movie	Nicky	J.House	J.House	J.House	J.House	Fresh T.	Fresh T.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
SPIKE	30	-	55	53	58	(4:30) C The Shawshank Rede...		C ••• Forrest Gump (1994, Comedy/Drama) Sally Field, Gary Sinise, Tom Hanks.								C The Shawshank ...	
SYFY	66	82	41	57	67	(5:00) C •• Battle Los Angeles Aaron Eckhart.				C Jaguars Crossing 3 Jonathan Brick.				Z Nation			
TBS	25	33	44	66	41	Fighting	Fighting	Fighting	Fighting	Fighting	Fighting	Search	Search	Search	Search	C The Bounty Hun...	
TCM	41	75	24	63	66	(4:45) C Rear Win...		C •• Real Life ('79, Com) Charles Grodin.				C ••• Modern Romance Albert Brooks.				C •••• Sunrise	
TELE	20	-	10	20		C Avatar ('09, Act) Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Sam Worthington.						Don Francisco (N)		Rubirow	Rubirow	C Happy Feet Two	
TLC	51	61	32	38	52	(4:00) 90Day Fiancé (N)	90 Day Fiancé "Second Thoughts" (N)					(:05) Unexpected (N)		(:10) 90 Day Fiancé "Second Thoughts"			
TNT	24	34	40	26	50	C •••• Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi Mark Hamill.						Good Behavior		Good Behavior		(:05) C Star Wars: E...	
TVLAND	49	-	35	54	35	Raba	Raba	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Loves Ray	Mom	Mom	Queens	Queens	Queens	Queens
USA	26	55	42	27	49	SVU "Solitary"		SVU "Tainted"		Law&O: SVU "Gray"		SVU "Smoked"		Happy!	(:05) Happy! (N)		(:05) SVU
WGN	19	85				Blue Bloods "Re-Do"		Blindl. "After Hours"		Blindl. "Little Fish"		Blindl. "Family Ties"		Bones		Bones	

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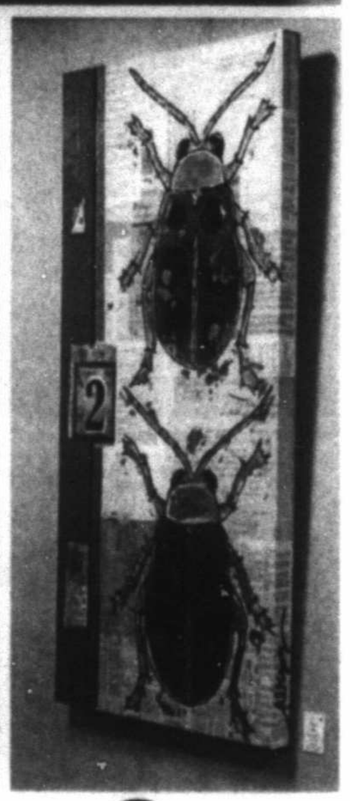


CALENDAR

COMPILED BY STAFF REPORTS AND THE ARTS COUNCIL OF MIDLAND | ACMIDLAND.ORG

DEC 17-23

TODAY

December Brunch Market with vendors and outdoor brunch. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at So Fly Boutique, 312 W. Colorado St.

West Texas North Pole Village will feature Santa and Mrs. Claus, hayrides, Rudolph's Candy Store and more. Noon at Rolling 7's Ranch Event Center, 11700 W. County Road 122, Odessa. $10 adults, $5 with unwrapped gift.

Very Merry Midland: Reindeer Games. The second annual event downtown will feature Santa's Workshop, ice skating, giant human snow globe, live holiday window displays and a new reindeer exhibit.1-5 p.m.; 5-8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday at 303 W. Wall St. Free admission but $6 for skating and snow globe photos. Doyourcity.us.

Santa, Milk and Cookies, 2-5 p.m. at Miss Cayce's Christmas, 1012 Andrews Highway.

CLOSING: "A Place Called Christmas" and "Twelve Daze of Christmas" 2:30 p.m. at Permian Playhouse, 310 W 42nd St. Odessa. $10. permianplayhouse.com.

MOSC: "Jingle Brass" with Lone Star Brass, 3 p.m. at Rea-Greathouse Recital Hall, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. MOSC.org.

Starbright Village and Community Tree Lighting. View the more than 300,000 lights and holiday displays. 6-11 p.m. through Jan 1 at McKinney Park, 625 W. Pool Road, Odessa. Free. odessatxparks.org.

Hip-hop and spoken-word artist Jonathan Brown performs at 7 p.m. at Kamiposi, 10 S. Big Spring St.

MONDAY

SciGirls STEM Camp for ages 8-12. 5 p.m. at Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

Open Shop Nights are hosted by the Midland Gem and Mineral Society and open to the public. Visitors can watch members cut rock and work on lapidary projects. 6:30-9 p.m. at 602 S. Main St. midlandgemandmineral.org.

Bridge game play, 6:45 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; 1 p.m. Tuesdays; 10:30 a.m. Saturdays; 1:30 p.m. Sundays. Allison Bridge Center, 913 W. Wadley Ave. $6. For more information call 682-8595.

Midland Community Band's weekly meeting and rehearsal at Midland College Fine Arts Building Band Hall. 7-9 p.m. New members welcome and some instruments are available for use at the college. Contact 553-0632 for more information.

TUESDAY

"Nature Notes" on Marfa Public Radio. 8:35 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. KXWT-Midland/Odessa-91.3 FM.

Watercolor art classes by Sara Drescher. The class is for all levels. 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. To register, email sara@artbysaradb.com.

Downtown Family Game Night with a variety of classic and new board games. 4:30 p.m. at Midland County Public Library downtown branch, 301 W. Missouri Ave.

The Gallery at Midland Shared Spaces opened its Winter Art Exhibition on Thursday. The show features works by local art groups and painters as well as photography and sculpture.

Permian Basin Dance Club with live country music, 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Crown Royal Club, 1110 E. Scharbauer Drive. $6. For more information, call 638-3707 or 250-8215.

Crossing the Line: West Texas Line Dancing weekly meetup. 7:30-9 p.m. at MLK Community Center, 2300 Butternut Lane. Classes are free but there is a $1 center entry fee. 713-876-9097. bbberesik@gmail.com. meetup.com/Crossing-TheLineWestTexas.

"The MeshugaNutcracker! The Chanukah Musical" is a musical comedy that mixes Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" with dancing dreidels. 7 p.m. at Tall City Stadium 14, 4915 SW Loop 250 N. $17.28. Fair-omevents.com.

"Merry-achi Christmas": with Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez, 8 p.m. at Wagner Noel Performing Arts Center, 1310 N. Farm-to-Market Road 1788. $29.50-$45.50. MOSC.org.

WEDNESDAY

Story Time, 9:30 a.m. for ages up to 2 years; 10:30 a.m. for ages 2-6 at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch.

THURSDAY

Hogwarts Holiday. This "Harry Potter"-themed event will sort Hogwarts students and muggles into various houses and attend magical classes. Teens can partake in the Harry Potter Escape Room. Costumes encouraged, 2:30-5:30 p.m. at Midland County Public Library Centennial branch, 2503 W. Loop 250 N.

Third Thursday Reading will have a featured book with copies given to each child. The monthly event is part of the Laura Bush Literacy Program. Free but space is limited so reservations are encouraged. Refreshments provided. 4:30 p.m. at the George W. Bush Childhood Home, 1412 W. Ohio Ave. bushchildhoodhome.org.

West Texas Dance Club with live country music, 7:30-10 p.m. at 208 W. VFW Way in Odessa. 697-0281 or 631-6125.

FRIDAY

Whiskey and Wild Game Dinner will feature four courses with whiskey pairings. 7 p.m. at Opal's Table, 223 W. Wall St. $95. Opalstable.com.

Tejano Christmas Dance with Los Musicales y David Lee Garza, Jay Perez, Gary Hobbs, La Dezz. 7 p.m. at Hacienda Event Center, 12610 State Highway 191. $25. Haciendmidland.com.

SATURDAY

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa, 10 a.m.-noon at Opal's Table, 223 W. Wall St. $20. opalstable.com.

ON DISPLAY

Midland Arts Association: Jean Hoelscher. Works will be on display 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays throughout December at Community National Bank, 401 W. Texas Ave. midlandartsassociation.org.

"William Cordova: Ankayllí: Spatial and Ideological Terrain" on display through Friday. Marfa Contemporary, 100 E. San Antonio St. Marfa. Marfacontemporary.org.

"What If," University of Texas of the Permian Basin Senior Art Exhibition by Iamhilex Fernandez on display through Jan. 5 at the Arts Council of Midland, 1506 W. Illinois Ave. acmidland.org.

Ballroom Marfa, 108 E. San Antonio St. Marfa. ballroommarfa.org.

Blakemore Planetarium at the Museum of the Southwest, 1705 W. Missouri Ave. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dome shows Tuesdays -Saturdays. Closed Sunday and Monday. museumsw.org.

George Bush Childhood Home. Tours and gift shop hours are 2-5 p.m. Sundays and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturdays. Admission charged. 1412 W. Ohio Ave 685-1112.

Midland Army Airfield Museum. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays. 9600 Wright Drive. Free admission. highskywing.org.

Midland County Historical Museum, 301 W. Missouri Ave. Permanent exhibits include early Midland artifacts, pioneer relics and fossil remains. Archives include photographs, documents, newspapers and extensive obituary files. Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2-5 p.m. Free. 688-8947.

Midland County Historical Society's Z. Taylor Brown-Sara Dorsey Medallion Home, oldest restored home in Midland. Open by appointment. 213 N. Weatherford St. 682-5447.

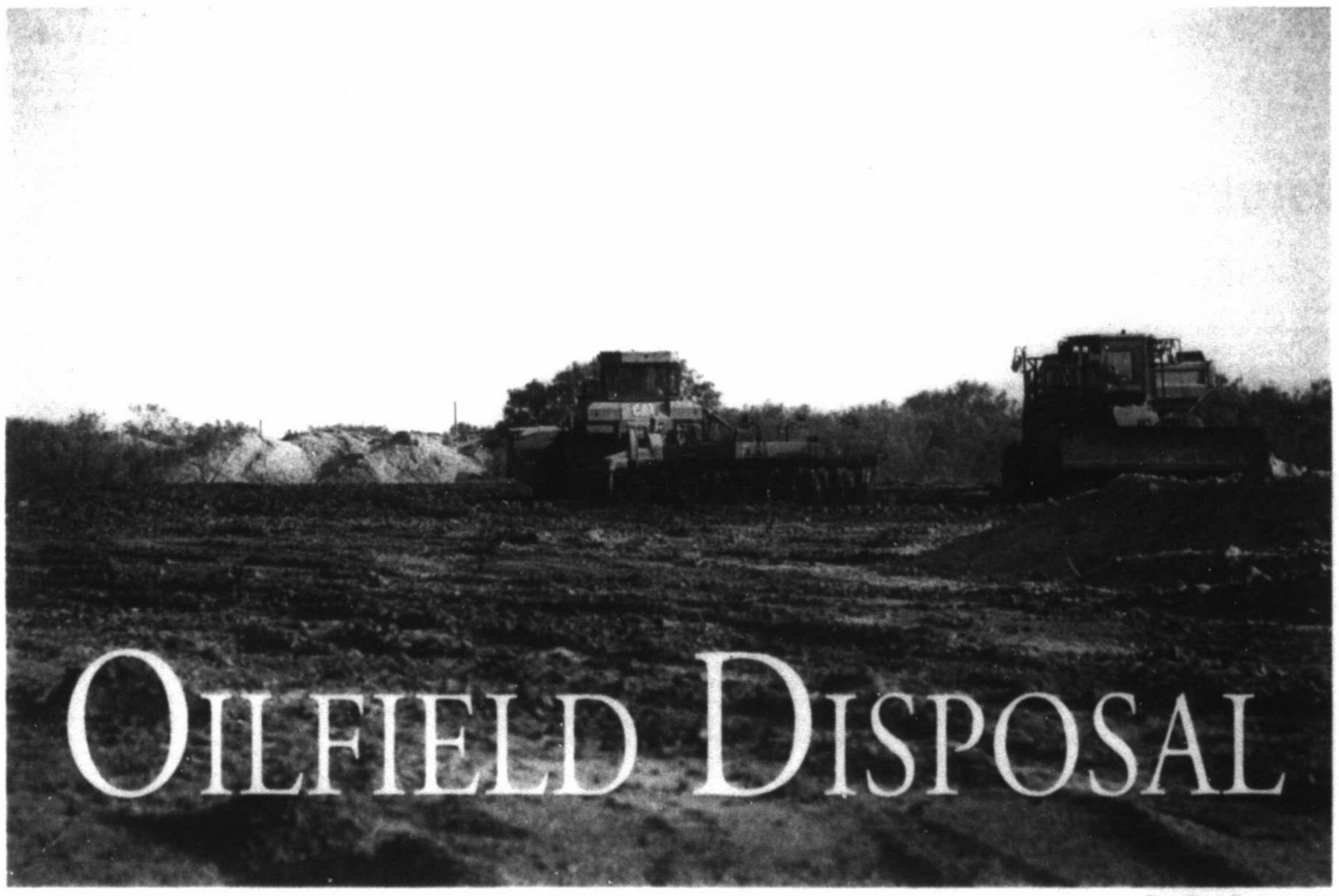
Options Gallery, Odessa College, 201 W. University Blvd. Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday 2-5 p.m. Free. 432-335-6640. odessa.edu.

Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, 1500 Interstate 20 West. Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday 2-5 p.m. 683-4403. pbpetro.org.

Scarborough-Linebery House, 802 S. Main St. Call for appointment. Available for rental for weddings and special occasions. 685-7368. midlandtexas.gov.

Oil Report

Midland Reporter-Telegram | mrt*com | Sunday, December 17, 2017 | Section F



Petro Waste Environmental

Just a couple of months after opening its Howard County landfill, above, Petro Waste Environmental is constructing two new sites to serve the Permian Basin, one in Reeves County and one in Reagan County.

Rising drilling activity accelerates need for waste disposal

■ Petro Waste Environmental constructing third, fourth landfills

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

New technology being adapted by the oil and gas industry is accelerating development of businesses to help dispose of the waste generated by the high rig count.

"With the efficiencies being realized, with more lateral feet being drilled today than even at the peak of the boom, and as companies move into more of a pad development mode, it's almost a requirement logistically to have drilling waste hauled off to commercial facilities," said George Wommack, founder and chief executive officer of Petro Waste Environmental LP.

Wommack's San Antonio-based company has just begun construction of its third and fourth landfills to serve the Permian Basin, just months after opening its first two.

Construction on the Deep Six landfill on 212 acres in Reeves County, 10 miles south of Pecos, is expected to be completed during the second quarter of 2018. The Big Lake landfill on 245 acres in Reagan County will be located on State Highway 137, 12 miles north of Big Lake at the Stiles turnoff. It, too, is expected to be complete in the second quarter of 2018.

Petro Waste opened its Orla landfill in April and its Howard County landfill between Stanton and Big Spring in September.

"This is part of our plan, to have thorough coverage of the Permian Basin," Wommack told the Reporter-Telegram by telephone from his San Antonio office. "We are now in all four corners, and that puts us close to everyone."

The company even holds a fifth permit, for a facility in Pecos County designed to serve development around the Alpine High play. Wommack said that while he is waiting to see how that market develops, "there seems to be a lot of potential and a high probability the site will be built."

The Deep Six facility is a joint venture with Trinity Environmental Services I LLC, a Guggenheim Partners portfolio company, and is being located adjacent to Trinity's Deep Six saltwater disposal facility. Petro Waste's Orla facility is now part of this joint venture.

Wommack said Trinity had previously obtained a landfill permit for its Deep Six facility. "We approached them to see if they were interested in a joint venture with us. It made sense to do one together. With this arrangement, we can continue doing what we do best and Trinity can participate without taking their eye off the ball of their core business, which is saltwater disposal."

Like Petro Waste's initial two facilities, both the Deep Six and Big Lake facilities, will accept oil-based and water-based muds, oil-based and water-based drill cuttings, contaminated soil and RCRA-exempt non-hazardous exploration and production waste. The Big Lake site will also sell fresh water and high-quality aggregate.

"Now our goal is to provide more and more service related to drilling activity. We'll provide roll-off cutting, boxes at the site to collect cuttings and we'll provide transportation from the drill site to the disposal facility," he said. It's all part of the effort to help customer become more efficient and drive down costs, he added.

Wommack said companies such as Petro Waste and Milestone Environmental, which opened its second Permian disposal site last month, offer environmentally friendly alternatives to burying waste at the drill site. Burying waste at the drill site doesn't come with oversight such as stormwater planning or monitoring.

"With our footprint, our facility can accommodate planned activity for the short term but also for the future," he said. And he said the way the facilities are constructed to protect ground water and the environment and to promote safety is above how facilities are being built in other basins, in part because it's what his customers demand.

He doesn't see a neighboring facility, such as Milestone, as a rival but a complementary site. "Milestone handles wetter waste; we do more on the dry side. Our handling of dry waste is more efficient," he explained.

Right now, he is pleased with the current level of oil field activity. "Getting too busy has challenges like cost increases, labor shortages, equipment shortages. Something around this level is ideal," he said.

Funding for the Big Lake facility and Petro Waste's share of the Deep Six landfill facility is being provided by Petro Waste's equity sponsor, Tailwater Capital.

Customer demands prompt Milestone Environmental to build south Midland facility

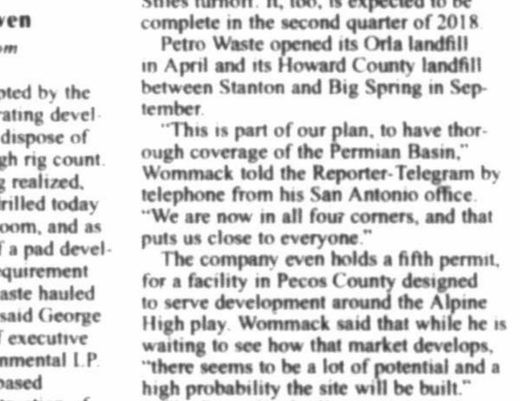
By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

The need for takeaway capacity in the Permian Basin goes beyond moving crude oil and natural gas to market.

With more than 400 drilling rigs at work in the region, increasing amounts of drilling waste are being generated. More and more facilities are springing up around the Permian to help manage those waste streams.

Houston-based Milestone Environmental Services just opened its second facility — the South Midland facility, on State Highway 349, 25 miles south of Midland — and is expected to serve operators in the Midland Basin. Its first facility is located in Pecos and will serve primarily the southern Delaware Basin.

"A lot of our customers are customers (of other Milestone facilities) and they said they needed more services," said Gabriel Rio, Milestone's president and chief executive officer as he celebrated the South Midland facility's opening.



Milestone Environmental

An overview of Milestone Environmental's new south Midland disposal facility, featuring the washout bays and entrance road off State Highway 349.

"This is an area that needs services," he said, attributing the growth in his business to the amount of drilling activity. The company hired 18 to staff the new facility, with plans to hire more in the coming months. Rio explained that his company utilizes a slurry injection process to inject drilling waste — including water-based and oil-based muds — along with flowback liquids and produced water about 6,000 feet below ground.

The way customers are managing their waste streams has changed a lot since he began his career in the industry, Rio noted. He said when he first started, "almost all the waste was buried at the drill site."

Commercial sites such as Milestone offer a more efficient and environmentally friendly method, he said.

"When you think about the potential environmental risks, the way waste is

Please see MILESTONE/2F

Industry veterans leverage experience into company

■ Pegasus Resources gets $300 million equity commitment for mineral and royalty property acquisitions

By Mella McEwen
mmcewen@mrt.com

A team of energy veterans is aiming to leverage their combined 150 years of experience to acquire and manage mineral and royalty properties in the nation's resource plays, primarily the Permian Basin.

The founders and management team of Pegasus Resources LLC will combine their years of experience with $300 million in equity committed by EnCap Investments LP to assemble its portfolio of properties.

George M. Young Jr., a 35-year industry veteran most recently as chief executive officer of Silverback Exploration LLC and president of Collins and Young LLC, will serve as chief executive officer.

Other Collins and Young veterans joining Pegasus are Will O. Rodgers, who recently was vice president at Collins and Young and vice president of Wolf Exploration LLC, and will be president and chief operating officer.

Don H. Collins, who served as vice president, land for Collins and Young for 12 years, will have the same title at Pegasus.

Cass H. Roberts, manager of operations for Collins and Young, will be vice president of operations at Pegasus. Lynn Frank, who served as director of finance for Black Stone Minerals LP will be Pegasus' chief financial officer.

Ted Collins Jr. will serve as a non-executive advisor.

Young discussed plans for the new company via email with the Reporter-Telegram.

MRT. What prompted you to launch Pegasus?

Young. We believe that this is a great time to acquire minerals in the Permian Basin. Recent developments in drilling and completion techniques have again made the Permian the most economic oil-prone basin in the United States, which has caused a lot of additional interest across the industry. As a mineral buyer, the Permian Basin is a very compelling place to deploy capital at this point in the cycle due to the level of drilling activity and clear evidence of multiple stacked pay zones.

MRT. $300 million is a nice amount to acquire and manage properties. Do you anticipate any hurdles to making acquisitions, given what Permian Basin acreage has been commanding in the last year?

Young. We are excited about our partnership with EnCap Investments, and the financial strength and expertise they bring to the table. We believe that solid partnerships are one of the keys to success. To that end, we have also partnered with Tilden Capital LLC, who has a long and successful history in sourcing and closing mineral and royalty acquisitions, specifically in the Permian Basin. We are pleased with the significant amount of deal flow we have already seen, and look forward to continuing to negotiate and close acquisitions.

MRT. Do you anticipate ever becoming a producer and drilling on those properties?

Young. Not at this time

ENERGYBRIEFS

FROM WIRE REPORTS

SAN ANTONIO

Catalyst Midstream announces open season for new Delaware Basin system

Catalyst Midstream Partners LLC, a joint venture between affiliates of Howard Energy Partners LLC and WPX Energy Inc. announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, Stateline Crude LLC, has launched a binding open season for long-term contractual commitments to a new crude oil gathering and related pipeline system to serve the prolific Delaware Basin. The binding open season is scheduled to conclude at 4 p.m. Jan. 8.

Catalyst's new system is expected to include about 50 miles of crude oil gathering and transportation pipelines designed with the capacity to handle 125,000 barrels per day. It will span portions of Eddy County, New Mexico, and Reeves and Loving counties to deliver into a new terminal facility located in Loving County. The new terminal, nearing completion, will have an initial working storage capacity of 50,000 barrels. Construction on Catalyst's new crude oil gathering system has begun and is expected to be fully operational by the fourth quarter of 2018.

Catalyst is supported by long-term contracts with WPX. Those contractual commitments include an area of mutual interest of more than 600 square miles in Lea, Eddy, Reeves and Loving counties, with 50,000 net acres currently dedicated by WPX.

Plains All American pushing ahead with Cactus pipeline expansion

Houston's Plains All American Pipeline is seeking customers to build its planned Cactus II Pipeline connecting the booming Permian Basin with the emerging crude oil export market out of Corpus Christi.

Plains' project would add two pipelines to its existing Cactus network, expanding the system's crude capacity from 390,000 barrels a day to up to 575,000 barrels daily. The project could be completed by the fall of 2019.

The original Cactus Pipeline is the only major oil artery connecting the Permian to Corpus Christi.

The initial Cactus Pipeline was completed in 2015 with 250,000 barrels a day of crude capacity. A first expansion to 390,000 barrels a day was recently completed this year.

As for the Cactus II effort, the first new pipeline would originate west of Odessa and connect southeast to McCamey. The longer, second pipeline would extend from McCamey to the Corpus Christi and Ingleside area.

Plains said it's reaching out to potential customers until mid-January before making any additional decisions.

HOUSTON

Anadarko announces open season for west Texas oil gathering system

Anadarko Petroleum Corp. announced its wholly owned subsidiary, DBM Oil Services, is holding a binding open season to identify interest in a new high-vapor-pressure oil-gathering and treating system serving portions of Reeves, Loving, Ward and Winkler counties.

The DBMOS system is expected to have a gathering capacity of about 400,000 barrels of oil per day and a treating capacity of 120,000 BOPD by the end of 2018, increasing to 180,000 BOPD in 2019 with future expansions as needed.

Subject to satisfaction of regulatory requirements and other project considerations, DBMOS expects the initial phase of the system to be operational in the second quarter of 2018.

Oil States buying GEODynamics for $525M

Houston's Oil States International will buy fracturing technology company GEODynamics for $525 million to help stay ahead of North American energy trends.

The Houston oilfield services firm aims to take advantage of GEODynamics' specialties at shale rock perforation technologies to better compete as the onshore oil and gas sector continues to expand with longer and deeper wells that include many more hydraulic fracturing stages.

Oil States said it's buying GEODynamics with $300 million in cash and more than $200 million in stock.

Clearlake Capital helps recapitalize Knight Energy

Clearlake Capital Group L.P together with its affiliates, and Knight Energy Holdings LLC announced that Clearlake has successfully completed the recapitalization of Knight in partnership with the company's management team, the Knight family, and other existing stakeholders.

Knight's successful recapitalization, completed under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, resulted in the reduction of more than $175 million in the company's total debt balance. With the support of its employees, customers, suppliers, and Clearlake, Knight was able to complete its restructuring quickly and efficiently and emerge with a significantly strengthened balance sheet and liquidity profile. Clearlake is now Knight's majority shareholder.

Headquartered in Lafayette, Louisiana, Knight is one of the largest privately owned oilfield rental tool companies in the world.

MILESTONE

From 1F

managed on the surface, that's a risk," he said. "If the waste stays on the surface, it's more likely to impact ground water. We inject the slurry 6,000 feet deep and the site has multiple confining layers between the slurry and ground water."

The South Midland facility has been designed with a long entrance road to minimize or eliminate truck queues along the highway and it has a covered wash-out bay for full service washouts of trucks and frac tanks.

Another reason to focus on the more liquid waste streams is that such sites are much faster to permit through the Railroad Commission, Rio said.

"The oil field is very dynamic; it changes very quickly and keeping up is a challenge for companies like us. The oil and gas industry booms and busts and moves on. By permitting faster, we can move with the market faster. We can ask the customers where they will be active two years from now" so new facilities can be planned. In fact, Rio said two new facilities will be announced next year.

While regulations overseeing waste disposal vary from state to state, Rio said Texas has been business friendly and consistent in enforcing those regulations. In fact, he said the Railroad Commission is tightening enforcement, "which is a good thing."

There has been some discussion at the federal level about tightening regulations around oil and gas waste rather than continuing to cede that oversight to the states, Rio said. But that would prevent companies such as Milestone from moving as quickly to meet demand, he said.

Milestone, founded over 20 years ago, has eight facilities in the Permian, Eagle Ford and Haynesville basins.

"The oil and gas industry has invested more than $13 billion in southeastern New Mexico's Permian Basin this year, creating a new drilling boom. While some of those drillers have committed to measures to limit methane waste and pollution, we have a long way to go. We need consistent standards,"

Michelle Lujan Grisham, U.S representative

New Mexico oil and gas companies sign on to reduce emissions

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Some of the biggest names in energy production in New Mexico have signed on to a national effort within the oil and gas industry to curb methane emissions as pressure mounts for states to enact more pollution laws.

The move comes as the U.S. Interior Department announced it would delay an Obama-era regulation aimed at restricting harmful methane emissions from production on federal lands.

Industry officials in New Mexico say BP America, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Devon Energy and others see the effort to reduce emissions as a priority and that work already underway has led to lower methane levels. Companies are using drones, for example, to monitor for leaks.

Under the partnership, companies will participate in programs that focus on addressing leaks and repairing or replacing certain pneumatic controllers at wells and other sites that are known for releasing methane.

State regulators testified recently before a panel of lawmakers that the most recent figures show a more than 50 percent decrease in emissions in New Mexico over the past year from venting and flaring during the initial stages of oil and gas production.

About 1 percent of all gas produced in the state is vented or flared, according to the figures from the state Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.

Environmentalists argue emissions are higher than what state and federal regulators have measured and that unintentional releases are not being accounted for. They say New Mexico is losing out on taxes and royalties that would be earned if more of the gas was captured.

U.S. Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for governor in New Mexico, reiterated many of the concerns highlighted by environmentalists in recent weeks. She issued a statement Tuesday, suggesting that if elected as the state's leader she would work with business and conservation leaders on what she called "common sense statewide rules."

While she did not offer many specifics, she said requiring regular inspections would be one option and that jobs stemming from efforts to address the pollution problem would further benefit New Mexico's economy.

"The oil and gas industry has invested more than $13 billion in southeastern New Mexico's Permian Basin this year, creating a new drilling boom. While some of those drillers have committed to measures to limit methane waste and pollution, we have a long way to go. We need consistent standards," Lujan Grisham said.

Industry officials have pointed to the ongoing reductions and have argued that federal regulations called for by environmentalists and the possibility of more state rules would result in higher costs and ultimately job and revenue losses.

Robert McEntyre, a spokesman for the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, said the industry — rather than politicians and activist groups — have been leading the way.

"There still is a significant push from industry and significant opportunities to develop technology and innovate in the field versus to rule by decree, which is what politicians have wanted to do for a long time," he said.

Trump is said to open door for oil drilling off East Coast

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy
Bloomberg

The Trump administration is preparing to unveil as soon as this week an expansive offshore oil plan that would open the door to selling new drilling rights in Atlantic waters, according to people familiar with the plan.

President Donald Trump ordered his Interior Department to write the new blueprint with the aim of auctioning oil and gas drilling rights off the East Coast — territory that his predecessor, former President Barack Obama, had ruled out. The Interior Department's coming draft proposal, an initial milestone in replacing the Obama-era sale plan, dovetails with the oil industry's push for new places to drill, said the people, who asked not to be identified before a formal announcement.

Trump's proposal would span the years 2019 to 2024, replacing the Obama plan, which runs through 2022.

Industry leaders have lobbied the Trump administration to sell drilling rights in the U.S. Atlantic as a way to complement existing oil production in the Gulf of Mexico. It is not clear how much oil and gas exists off the East Coast, because existing data stems largely from decades-old geological surveys and more than four-dozen wells drilled in the 1970s and 1980s.

Oil companies also want the Trump administration to sell drilling rights in Arctic waters north of Alaska and in the eastern Gulf of Mexico — where federal law bars new oil leasing through 2022. Lawmakers from Florida have fought efforts to expand offshore drilling they say would imperil the state's tourism-tied economy and are seeking to extend that ban.

While most U.S. waters are technically open for oil and gas development, the activity can only take place on leases sold under the government's five-year plan. The legal process for assembling that drilling blueprint starts broad, with the number of potential sales and the available acreage often whittled down as regulators move from an initial draft to a proposal and ultimately, the final program.

Industry trade groups have urged the government to take an inclusive approach and leave all options open for now, because once offshore areas are yanked out, they can't be easily restored.

"It's important that the federal government make available new prospective areas to search for oil and gas to ensure we keep up with future demand," said Dan Eberhart, chief executive officer of drilling services company Canary LLC. "It doesn't mean we should necessarily drill everywhere, but it is important to know what resources we have so we can make informed decisions about the best places to drill."

Environmentalists argue it would be shortsighted for the Trump administration to keep considering new oil drilling off the East and West coasts, given deep opposition from local residents worried about potential oil spills jeopardizing fishing and tourism.

"The Trump administration is trying to grab the pristine ocean waters Americans own and hand them to polluters for exploitation and ruin," said Alexandra Adams, a senior advocate with the Natural Resources Defense Council. "We will fight this with our coastal communities who've made their opposition clear: They won't subject their economies and their whole way of life to the dangers of a devastating oil spill."

Linn Energy to split into three companies and focus on Oklahoma oil

■ Linn plucks three former EOG execs to run oil operations

By David Hunn
Houston Chronicle

Houston's Linn Energy, once a darling of Wall Street and one of the biggest independent oil giants, is now further splitting into three standalone companies.

Linn declared bankruptcy last year with $8.3 billion in debt and emerged in February as two companies, Linn and Berry Petroleum, which it had purchased at the height of the oil boom.

But on Thursday, executives said it is further separating, this time into three: an oil and gas company focused on Oklahoma plays; a pipeline business in the same area; and one made up of the left-over parts.

Roan Resources will focus on "accelerated development" of 150,000 acres in Oklahoma's Merge, SCOOP and STACK plays. The company has plucked executives from the Houston oil giant EOG Resources: CEO Tony Maranto spent more than two decades there, including a decade running EOG's Oklahoma City operations. Executive Vice President Joel Pettit spent the last 11 years as EOG's operations manager in Midland and Oklahoma City. Executive Vice President Greg Condray joined EOG in 2013, assembling its Merge position. New management will assume operations from LINN January 1. Roan expects daily net production to surpass 40,000 barrels of oil and gas per day by mid-January.

"We are assembling a strong technical team to accelerate the development of the Merge play and become the premier operator in the basin," said Maranto.

Linn is considering management options for Blue Mountain Midstream, a pipeline business centered in the core of the SCOOP, STACK and Merge.

And it will continue to sell off "non-core" assets. Those remaining will be turned into a third public company when Roan and Blue Mountain separate.

Linn currently owns 50-percent of Roan; Citizen Energy, a private Oklahoma company, owns the other half. The two companies are in talks to consolidate ownership and trade on the New York Stock Exchange or Nasdaq as Roan.

Mark Ellis, Linn's president and CEO, said the market is undervaluing Linn, and that the company's parts are worth more than their sum.

Noble forms JV to buy Saddle Butte Pipeline for $625M

By Jordan Blum
Houston Chronicle

Noble Energy's pipeline business created a new joint venture to buy Colorado's Saddle Butte Pipeline for $625 million.

The deal is a play by Houston's Noble Midstream Partners to expand in Colorado's DJ Basin and capitalize on the region's growing oil production. Noble Midstream, which spun out last year from Noble Energy, is focusing on the DJ Basin and West Texas' booming Permian Basin.

Noble said it is forming the Black Diamond Gathering joint venture with Greenfield Midstream, a Houston-based company backed by San Antonio private equity firm EnCap Flatrock Midstream.

Noble and Greenfield will split the purchase price in half, but Noble will operate the joint venture and own 54.4 percent of the JV.

The privately owned Saddle Butte system includes 160 miles of pipelines in operation with 300,000 barrels a day of crude capacity. Saddle Butte also has about 210,000 barrels of oil storage capacity.

Saddle Butte also brings ongoing oil gathering deals with Denver-based PDC Energy, and PDC is planning to expand in the DJ Basin.

Noble said it's buying a premier oil gathering system in the heart of the DJ Basin that fits well with its existing pipeline network.

"Saddle Butte is a strategic expansion of our footprint in the DJ Basin, which creates a premier DJ Basin crude gathering system and significantly enhances our third-party customer base," said Noble Midstream CEO Terry Gerhart.

"The expanded crude gathering system and JV structure provides Noble Midstream flexibility to enhance returns on future capital projects."

Greenfield CEO Jeremy Ham said the new JV is a powerful combination in one of the fastest growing oil basins in the country.

Petroleum Professional Development Center

All classes will be held at the Midland College PPDC building, 221 N. Main St

To register, go to the Midland College PPDC's Website: www.midland.edu/ppdc

Midland College will close for the holidays on December 18th and re-open on January 2, 2018. Registration is available online during this time.

On-Line Division Order Certificate Program: Module 4 of 6: Calculations
Instructor: Sherry Robinson
Start Date: Jan 4- January 30, 2018 Registration Deadline: Noon, Jan 4, 2018
Cost: $612.50; Out of State, $637.50 - the required text is the NADOA Study Guide, which is $75 (one-time charge). Students need to join NADOA for $75 to download the "no cost" manual only available to members.

On-Line Land Management Certificate Program: Module 4 of 6: Title: Oil & Gas Law and Its Impact on Land Practices
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: Jan 4 – Jan 30, 2018 Registration Deadline Noon, Jan 4, 2018
Cost: $612.50; Out of State, $637.50

Petroleum Geology for Non Geologists
Instructor: Paul Pause
Start Date: January 16-19, 2018 – Tuesday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $1835; Out of State $1860

Energy Land Management Dr. Patrick Fitzgerald
Start Date: January 17 -18, 2017 – Wednesday – Thursday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $675; Out of State $700

Critical Title Issues
Dr. Patrick Fitzgerald
Start Date: January 19, 2017 – Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $350; Out of State $375

Carbonate Reservoir Characterization: The Lucia Method
Instructor: David M. Orchard
Start Date: January 22 -23, 2018 – Monday – Tuesday -8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $400; Out of State $425

4 Day ROZ and CO2 School – Includes Field Visit
Instructors: Steve Melzer, Dr. Robert C. Trentham, Ron Wackowski, Russell K. Hall, George Koperna
Start Date: January 23 - 26, 2018 – Tuesday – Friday – see website for times www.midland.edu/ppdc
Cost: $2000; Out of State $2025

ROZ and CO2 School – Day 1 of 4 Only
Day 1: Residual Oil Zones and Commercial Exploitation
Instructors: Steve Melzer, Dr. Robert C. Trentham, Ron Wackowski, Russell K. Hall, George Koperna
Start Date: January 23, 2018 – Tuesday – 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $550; Out of State $575

ROZ and CO2 School – Day 2 of 4 Only
Day 2: Horizontal Well Reservoir Depressuring of the ROZ
Instructors: Steve Melzer, Dr. Robert C. Trentham, Ron Wackowski, Russell K. Hall, George Koperna
Start Date: January 24, 2018 – Wednesday – 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $550; Out of State $575

ROZ and CO2 School – Day 3 of 4 Only (Field Visit Included)
Day 3: Field Visit plus CO2 Recycle Processing for CO2 Flooding
Instructors: Steve Melzer, Dr. Robert C. Trentham, Ron Wackowski, Russell K. Hall, George Koperna
Start Date: January 25, 2018 – Thursday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $575; Out of State $600

ROZ and CO2 School – Day 4 of 4 Only
Day 4: CO2 EOR Fundamentals
Instructors: Steve Melzer, Dr. Robert C. Trentham, Ron Wackowski, Russell K. Hall, George Koperna
Start Date: January 26, 2018 – Friday – 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $550; Out of State $575

Petra Fundamentals
Instructor: Greg Hinterlong
Start Date: January 23-24, 2018 – Tuesday - Wednesday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $625; Out of State $650

Valuation of Upstream Oil & Gas Properties
Instructors: Edwin C. Moritz & Dr. Mark Crenshaw
Start Date: January 24-25, 2018 – Wednesday – Thursday – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $1250; Out of State $1275

Well Control Drilling/Workover (WellSharp)
Instructor: Larry Chapman
Start Date: January 29 – February 2, 2018 – Monday – Friday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $1200; Out of State $1225

Right of Way Acquisition Training
Instructor: Don Valden
Start Date: February 1, 2018 – Thursday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $500; $525 Out of State

Advanced Right of Way Acquisition Training
Instructor: Don Valden
Start Date: February 2, 2018 – Friday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $500; $525 Out of State

On-Line Division Order Certificate Program: Module 5 of 6: Oil & Gas Law
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: February 2 – February 27, 2018 Registration Deadline: Noon, Feb 2, 2018
Cost: $612.50; Out of State, $637.50 - the required text is the NADOA Study Guide, which is $75 (one-time charge). Students need to join NADOA for $75 to download the "no cost" manual only available to members.

On-Line Land Management Certificate Program: Module 5 of 6: Title: Legally Enforceable Oil & Gas Contracts
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: February 2 – February 27, 2018 Registration Deadline: Noon, Feb 2, 2018
Cost: $612.50; Out of State, $637.50

SQL: Application to Oil/Gas Relational Database
Instructor: Celia Houston
Start Date: February 6, 2018 - Tuesday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: $375; Out of State $400

Optimizing Oilfield Systems Using Spreadsheet Models
Instructor: Peter L. Galusky, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.
Start Date: February 12, 2018 – Monday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $350; Out of State $375

Introduction to Log Interpretation and Quality
Instructor: Gary Batcheller
Start Date: February 12 – 14, 2018 – Monday – Wednesday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $1095; Out of State $1020

PHDWin
Instructor: Celia Houston
Start Date: February 13 – 14, 2018 – Tuesday – Wednesday – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: $625; Out of State $650

Introduction to Well Completion
Instructor: Gary Batcheller
Start Date: February 15-16, 2018 – Thursday - Friday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $720; Out of State $745

Professional Technical Sales
Instructor: Paul Hughes
Start Date: February 16, 2018 – Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $250; Out of State $275

Log Analysis of Hydrocarbon Bearing Shales
Instructor: Dr. George Asquith
Start Date: February 19, 2018 – Monday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $475; Out of State $500

New Course: Gas Lift Design and Operation
Instructor: Mike Johnson
Start Date: February 19 - 22 – Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $1800; Out of State $1825

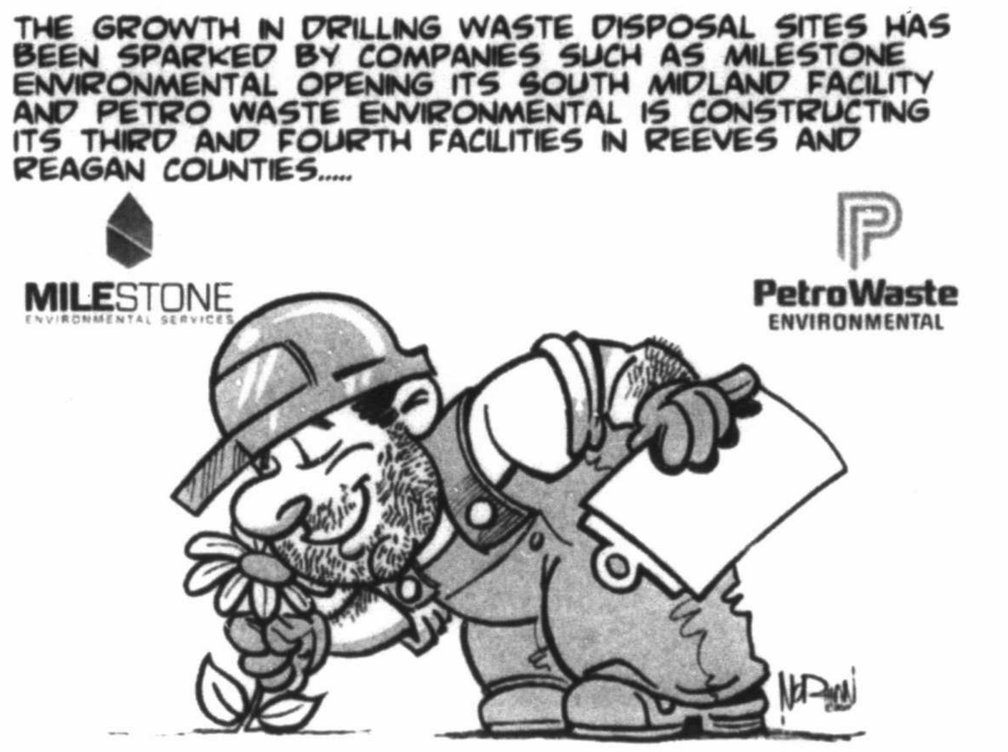
New Course: An Overview of Multistage Completion Systems for Hydraulic Fracturing
Instructor: W. Aaron Burton
Start Date: February 20, 2018 – Tuesday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $575; Out of State $600

Intermediate GIS Concepts for Petroleum
Instructor: Jennifer Harrison
Start Date: February 28 – March 2, 2018 – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $1440; Out of State - $1465

On-Line Division Orders Certificate Program: Module 6 of 6 Modules: Title: Oil and Gas Contracts
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: March 2 – March 28, 2018 Registration Deadline: Noon, March 2, 2018
Cost: $612.50; Out of State, $637.50 - The required text is the NADOA Study Guide, which is $75 (one-time charge). Students need to join NADOA for $75 to download the "no cost" manual only available to members.

On-Line Land Management Certificate Program - Module 6 of 6 Modules: Title: Federal Laws that Impact the Oil and Gas Industry
Instructor: Alyce Hoge
Start Date: March 2 – March 28, 2018 Registration Deadline: Noon, March 2, 2018
Cost: $612.50; Out of State, $637.50

Please see PAGE 4F



MID-WEEK WTI AVERAGE PRICES

Posted	$53.65	Shell Trading	$53.20
Energy Transfer Partners*	$53.25	Nymex futures	$57.16*
Flint Hills Resources*	$53.00	*Net price without transportation charge	
Phillips 66	$53.22		
Plains*	$53.00	Note: Posted prices as of Dec. 13	

Hilcorp, Vitol team up on Corpus crude export project

By Jordan Blum
Houston Chronicle

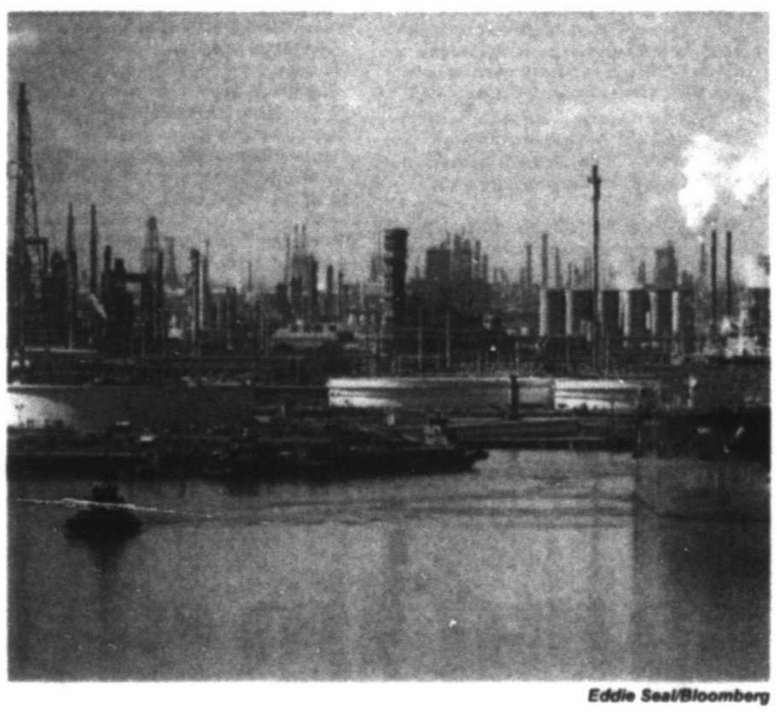
Houston-based Hilcorp Energy and international energy trader Vitol are teaming up to potentially build a new crude export terminal in Corpus Christi.

Corpus Christi and Houston are leading the way as the nation rapidly increases its exports of crude oil since Congress lifted the decades-old ban two years ago.

Hilcorp subsidiary Harvest Pipeline said it inked a deal with the Netherlands-based Vitol to explore the joint development of a major crude storage and export terminal at the Port of Corpus Christi.

"The agreement between Harvest Pipeline Company and Vitol is an extraordinary opportunity to help satisfy the growing need for export capacity along the Texas Gulf Coast," said Harvest President Sean Kolassa. "We are excited for the project to begin moving forward."

Harvest already owns a network of pipelines connecting South Texas' Eagle Ford shale to Corpus Christi. Vitol specializes in energy trading worldwide, including U.S. crude exports.



Eddie Seal/Bloomberg

A tanker sails out of the Port of Corpus Christi in Texas after discharging crude oil at the Citgo refinery in 2016.

A slew of other pipeline companies also are proposing new crude pipelines connecting West Texas' booming Permian Basin to the Corpus area.

"Crude demand, particularly in emerging markets, continues to grow and U.S. shale has an important role to play in satisfying this demand," said Mark Couling, Vitol's head of crude oil. "Our new pipeline and terminal will facilitate the efficient delivery of U.S. crude to global markets, thereby increasing marketing opportunities and optimizing value for U.S. producers."

Global oilfield spending set to rise by $25 billion in 2018, led by U.S., survey says

By Collin Eaton
Houston Chronicle

Energy companies will boost capital spending in the U.S. oil patch next year, but their investments won't grow nearly as much as this year, a new report said Wednesday.

The oil industry's capital expenditures — the lifeblood of the oil field service companies that employ thousands of people in Houston and across Texas — will increase by 15 percent in the United States next year, compared with an increase of 49 percent last year, according to a survey of more than 300 companies by investment bank Evercore ISI.

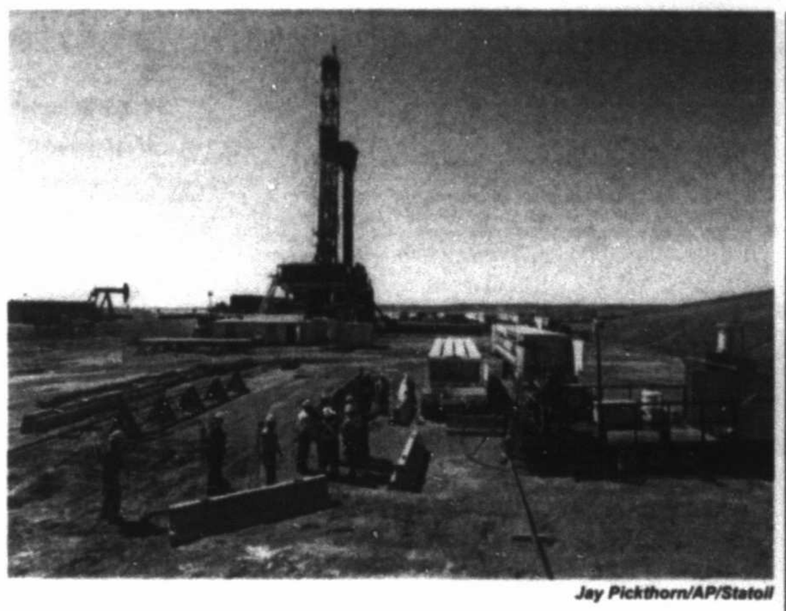
That means the U.S. oil industry's capital expenditures will climb by $13.3 billion next year, vaulting above $100 billion from this year's haul of $87.7 billion. And that forecast may have to be revised if oil prices rise further.

"2018 could be the first in several years that commodity prices surprise to the upside," Evercore ISI analysts said.

Almost two thirds of the oil companies in the investment bank's survey said they were not increasing their budgets to account for service cost inflation.

International oil field spending will rise by 4 percent to $268.5 billion, an improvement over this year's 6 percent drop to $258.2 billion. Canadian oil producers could boost investments 9 percent next year to $16.1 billion, compared with a 36-percent boost to $14.8 billion in 2017.

All told, global oil field spending could rise 7 percent, or $24.8 billion, next year, to $385.5 billion. That's higher than this year's 4 percent growth, but still 50 percent below the 2014 peak in the oil industry's spending. Global oil field spending fell 33 percent in 2016, the worst year of the oil-market collapse.



Jay Pickthorn/AP/Statoil

Ferus Natural Gas trailers carry white tubes of compressed natural gas that power a Statoil drilling rig in North Dakota's Bakken Shale. Statoil, Ferus and GE are in partnership on a project to fuel the equipment with natural gas that Statoil produces along with oil in the Bakken.

Federal geologists to reevaluate North Dakota oil potential

Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — Federal geologists agreed Monday to reevaluate the amount of recoverable crude oil in North Dakota, U.S. Senator John Hoeven said.

Hoeven and industry officials requested the new assessment by the U.S. Geological Survey, saying it would likely attract investment by showing stronger production potential.

USGS Deputy Director William Werkheiser notified Hoeven by letter on Monday. Industry officials and Hoeven want the USGS to take into account 17 other formations in western North Dakota's oil patch that could be exploited using technology developed for the Bakken and the Three Forks directly beneath it.

Werkheiser's letter said the agency would do that but gave no details on when the assessment would start, or when it would be completed. He said the federal agency would work with "appropriate state and local officials and technical experts to ensure we develop the best possible product in a timely manner."

Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, which represents nearly 500 energy companies working in the state, said the new assessment should "provide a much clearer picture of the resources we have in North Dakota."

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp echoed that, calling news of the survey "encouraging."

In 2013, the USGS released data that showed 7.4 billion barrels of oil could be recovered from the Bakken and Three Forks spanning parts of North Dakota and parts of Montana, nearly double the amount the agency previously estimated for the region in 2008.

The USGS's study last year found Wolfcamp shale, located in the Midland Basin portion of Texas' Permian Basin, contains 20 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

US drilling permits could surge in December if oil stays elevated, Evercore says

By Collin Eaton
Houston Chronicle

If crude prices remain elevated, oil companies could take out some 5,000 onshore U.S. drilling permits this month, the biggest monthly haul of the year, a new report says.

State agencies issued 2,460 drilling permits through Dec. 8, driven by an 80 percent increase in New Mexico, according to New York investment bank Evercore ISI.

"With commodity prices again on the rise and charging toward $60, we believe that an influx of smaller private/independent operators will drive permitting activity into year end," Evercore analysts wrote on Tuesday.

The permitting activity likely means the number of working U.S. drilling rigs will continue to rise in the first quarter of next year.

In November, oil companies took out 3,964 permits to drill onshore wells in Texas, Oklahoma and elsewhere, up slightly from the previous month.

The number of U.S. drilling permits issued this year has climbed to 41,735, well above last year's 27,239, the lowest number in at least a decade. In 2014, at the height or the oil boom, oil companies took out 74,512 permits, according to Evercore.

Eric Gay/AP File Photo

Oil pump jacks work in the behind a natural gas flare near in 2014 Watford City, N.D.

Natural gas flaring increases in North Dakota oil fields

Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — More than a dozen oil companies failed to meet North Dakota's natural gas flaring goals three months ago.

Operators burned off over 300 million cubic feet of natural gas per day in September, a level the state hasn't seen since the summer of 2015, reported the Bismarck Tribune. According to regulators, September's increase in flaring is a result of maintenance issues with pipeline systems and other infrastructure outages.

"I think it was a very isolated period," said Dave Tabor, a supervisor for the Oil and Gas Division.

Energy companies "flare," or burn off, vast amounts of natural gas at drilling sites because it earns less money than oil. The practice has become so prevalent in North Dakota that nighttime flaring is visible in NASA photos from space. The primary gas burned off during flaring operations is methane, which is a contributor to climate change. Environmental groups say flaring increases the risk of ozone formation in the air and ozone-related health problems.

In 2014, the state Industrial Commission adopted gas capture targets to reduce wasteful flaring of excess natural gas in oil fields. Under the policy, North Dakota regulators limit a company's oil production if they don't capture the target amount, which is currently 85 percent. In September, 13 companies failed to meet that target, according to the Department of Mineral Resources.

But there are exceptions that make imposing restrictions unlikely.

State regulators plan to limit oil production from three Sinclair Oil wells in December for failing to meet September's gas capture targets, according to Alison Ritter, spokeswoman for the Department of Mineral Resources.

"It's a pretty significant reduction," Ritter said.

Regulators are also withholding drilling permits until the company demonstrates it can capture the gas, according to Ritter.

But the 12 other companies that also captured less than 85 percent aren't facing any restrictions. Exceptions to the gas capture policy include allowing wells to produce unrestricted for the first 90 days and subtracting flared volumes for the first well in a spacing unit. Regulators also don't impose limits on wells that produce less than 100 barrels daily.

Regulators only restricted production under the gas capture policy one other time in 2017.

WILDCATS

Courtesy DrillingInfo

Texas RRCD 8

Jeff Davis County

Cody Energy LLC
Van Buren #102
Wildcat; 660 fsl, 580 fel, Sec 42, Blk 57, T-9, Abst 3267, T&P RR, 23.3 nw Fort Davis, TD 12500; API #42-243-30115
Permit issued 11/29

Martin County

PetroLegacy Energy II LLC
Moon Tower 44-41 #1H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 467 fsl, 1010 fel, Sec 44, Blk 36, T-4-N, Abst 767, T&P RR, 15 w Ackerly; TD 12000; API #42-317-41143 Permit issued 11/28

Texas RRCD 8A

Gaines County

RGX Energy LLC
Jackson #1H
Wildcat-Horizontal; 360 fwl, 200 fsl, Sec 15, Blk A-28, Abst 522, PSL, 27 sw Seminole; TD 8000; API #42-165-38644
Permit issued 11/28

Garza County

CML Exploration LLC
LAH #1
Wildcat-Directional; 4111 fel, 546 fnl, Sec 116, Blk 5, Abst 847, H&GN RR, 18.1 se Post; TD 6400; API #42-169-34255
Permit issued 11/28

New Mexico

Lea County

Ascent Energy LLC Toque State Com #501 Wildcat; Sec 7 T21S R33E; 684/S & 2202/W; 8 1/2 mi SE Halfway; Rot 18897 Bone Spring; API #30-025-44148

Cimarex Energy Co. Vaca Draw 20 17 Fed #2 Wildcat; Sec 20 T25S R33E; 390/S & 1910/W; 10 mi SW Ochoa; Rot 21987 Wolfcamp; API #30-025-44136

Cimarex Energy Co. Vaca Draw 20 17 Fed #3 Wildcat; Sec 20 T25S R33E; 390/S & 1930/W; 10 mi SW Ochoa; Rot 22055 Wolfcamp; API #30-025-44137

COG Operating LLC Baseball CAP Federal #24 Wildcat, Sec 25 T24S R34E; 360/S & 1980/E; 1/2 mi E Ochoa; Rot 22778 Wolfcamp; API #30-025-44152

COG Operating LLC Baseball CAP Fed Com #26 Wildcat, Sec 25 T24S R34E; 320/S & 1980/W; 1/2 mi E Ochoa; Rot 22770 Bone Spring; API #30-025-44153

Marathon Oil Permian LLC Knife Fight Fee 24 34 26 WXY #3 Wildcat; Sec 26 T24S R34E; 271/N & 1205/E; Ochoa; Rot 17200 Wolfcamp; API #30-02-44162

Cimarex Energy Co. Vaca Draw 20 17 Federal #5 Wildcat; Sec 20 T25S R33E; 330/S & 670/W; 10 mi SW Ochoa; Rot 22072 Bone Spring; API #30-025-44150

Cimarex Energy Co. Vaca Draw 20 17 Federal #6 Wildcat; Sec 20 T25S R33E; 330/S & 690/W; 10 mi SW Ochoa; Rot 22113 Bone Spring; API #30-025-44151

Petroleum Professional Development Center

From 3F

Managing Sucker Rod Lift Well Failures
Instructor: Albert Garza
Start Date: March 6, 2018 – Tuesday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $350; Out of State: $375

Basic Oilfield Operations
Instructor: Albert Garza
Start Date: March 7-8, 2018 – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $475; Out of State: $500

IHS: Petra Advanced Cross Section and Correlation Techniques
Start Date: March 6-7, 2018 – Tuesday – Wednesday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $1600 – Register Directly with IHS on the PPDC website: www.midland.edu/ppdc

IHS: Petra Advanced Mapping Techniques
Start Date: March 8-9, 2018 – Thursday – Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $1600 – Register Directly with IHS on the PPDC website: www.midland.edu/ppdc

Oilfield Terminology
Instructor: Tommy Lent
Start Date: March 6-7, 2018 – Tuesday – Wednesday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $430; Out of State: $455

PetroSkills: Petroleum Systems Analysis – PSA
Instructor: Andrew Pepper
Start Date: March 19-23, 2018 – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $4190 - Register directly with PetroSkills on the PPDC Website: www.midland.edu/ppdc

Well Control Drilling/Workover (WellSharp)
Instructor: Larry Chapman
Start Date: March 19-23, 2018 – Monday – Friday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $1200; Out of State $1225

Petra Fundamentals
Instructor: Greg Hinterlong
Start Date: March 20-21, 2018 – Tuesday - Wednesday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $625; Out of State $650

Principles of Hydraulic Fracturing
Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Miskimins
Start Date: March 27-29, 2018 – Tuesday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: $1200; Out of State: $1225

Around the oil patch

PAID CONTENT

To appear here call Paul Wiseman at 697-7468 or your Oil Report account executive.

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DEVELOPMENT WELLS

Courtesy DrillingInfo

Texas RRCD 7C

Crockett County

SEM Operating Company LLC
University 40 #2309WB
Lin (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 10777 fsl, 10479 fwl, Sec 14, Blk 40, Abst. 304U, ULS, 25.9 n Ozona, TD 10000; API #42-105-42440 Permit issued 12/7

Reagan County

Discovery Natural Resources LLC
Divide Draw Z #1526NH
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 10275 fsl, 3314 fel, Sec 152, Blk 1, Abst. 852, T&P RR, 6.5 ne Big Lake; TD 8000; API #42-383-40057 Permit issued 12/4

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Bast 32-41 #4315H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal, 450 fsl, 286 fel, Sec 29, Blk C, Abst. 317, L&SV RR, 25.3 nw Big Lake, TD 9300; API #42-383-40056 Permit issued 12/4

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Bast 32-41 #4415H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal, 480 fsl, 286 fel, Sec 29, Blk C, Abst. 317, L&SV RR, 25.3 nw Big Lake, TD 9500; API #42-383-40055 Permit issued 12/4

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Bast 32-41 #4213H
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal, 420 fsl, 286 fel, Sec 29, Blk C, Abst. 317, L&SV RR, 25.3 nw Big Lake, TD 9000; API #42-383-40059 Permit issued 12/7

RP Operating LLC
Goldenrod 13 #1UB
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 475 fsl, 2562 fel, Sec 14, Blk H, Abst. 790, L&SV RR, 22.79 nw Big Lake; TD 10000; API #42-383-40060 Permit issued 12/7

Tom Green County

Independence Resources Management LLC
Pfluger B 1 #1WA
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 4484 fsl, 4268 fel, Sec 49, Blk 7, Abst 954, H&TC RR, 42.4 nw San Angelo; TD 11000; API #42-451-32871 Permit issued 12/7

Upton County

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc. Halff 1D #104H Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal, 390 fnl, 1275 fel, Sec 1, Blk Y, Abst. 184, GC&SF RR, 15.6 ne Rankin, TD 10200; API #42-461-40716 Permit issued 12/7

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc. Halff 1E #105H Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal, 390 fnl, 1255 fel, Sec 1, Blk Y, Abst. 184, GC&SF RR, 15.6 ne Rankin, TD 10200; API #42-461-40717 Permit issued 12/7

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc. Halff 1F #106H Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal, 390 fnl, 1235 fel, Sec 1, Blk Y, Abst. 184, GC&SF RR, 15.6 ne Rankin, TD 10200; API #42-461-40718 Permit issued 12/7

Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc
University 3-15 #122H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 895 fnl, 782 fwl, Sec 15, Blk 3, Abst. 15U, ULS, 7.3 ne Rankin, TD 10250; API #42-461-40730 Permit issued 12/6

Texas RRCD 8

Culberson County

BHP Billiton Pet (TXLA OP) Co
HS State 113-16 #W108H
Ford West (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 50 fsl, 330 fel, Sec 16, Blk 113, Abst. 5115, PSL, 15.93 w Orla; TD 14000; API #42-109-33250 Permit issued 12/4

BHP Billiton Pet (TXLA OP) Co
HS State 113-9 #W108H
Ford West (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 564 fnl, 863 fel, Sec 16, Blk 113, Abst. 5115, PSL, 15.93 w Orla; TD 14000; API #42-109-33251 Permit issued 12/4

Ector County

XTO Energy Inc
C.A. Goldsmith et al #101H
Lawson (San Andres)-Horizontal; 6892 fel, 13792 fsl, Sec 34, Blk 44, T-1-S, Abst. 699, T&P RR, 13.8 nw Odessa; TD 11700; API #42-135-34554 Permit issued 12/4

Glasscock County

Laredo Petroleum Inc.
Fuchs F 46-34 (Alloc-B) #2NM
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2880 fsl, 745 fwl, Sec 46, Blk 34, T-5-S, Abst. 1131, T&P RR, 12.6 s Garden City; TD 9000; API #42-173-37756 Permit issued 12/6

Laredo Petroleum Inc.
Fuchs F 46-34 (Alloc-C) #3NU
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2595 fsl, 1868 fwl, Sec 46, Blk 34, T-5-S, Abst. 1131, T&P RR, 12.6 s Garden City; TD 9000; API #42-173-37757 Permit issued 12/6

Laredo Petroleum Inc.
Fuchs F 46-34 (Alloc-C) #3NM
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2604 fsl, 1891 fwl, Sec 46, Blk 34, T-5-S, Abst. 1131, T&P RR, 12.6 s Garden City; TD 9000; API #42-173-37763 Permit issued 12/7

Laredo Petroleum Inc.
Fuchs F 46-34 (Alloc-D) #4NU
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2613 fsl, 1914 fwl, Sec 46, Blk 34, T-5-S, Abst. 1131, T&P RR, 12.6 s Garden City; TD 9000; API #42-173-37764 Permit issued 12/7

Laredo Petroleum Inc.
Fuchs F 46-34 (Alloc-D) #4NM
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2622 fsl, 1938 fwl, Sec 46, Blk 34, T-5-S, Abst. 1131, T&P RR, 12.6 s Garden City; TD 9000; API #42-173-37765 Permit issued 12/7

Oxy USA Inc.
E.L. Powell #905A
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 48 fsl, 448 fel, Sec 9, Blk 35, T-3-S, Abst. 316, T&P RR, 11.3 nw Garden City; TD 9000; API #42-173-37787 Permit issued 12/7

Oxy USA Inc.
E.L. Powell #904A
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 48 fsl, 488 fel, Sec 9, Blk 35, T-3-S, Abst. 316, T&P RR, 11.3 nw Garden City; TD 9000; API #42-173-37788 Permit issued 12/7

Howard County

Parsley Energy Operations LLC
Guitar South 1-5-H #4314H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 330 fel, 475 fsl, Sec 4, Blk A, Abst. 553, Bauer & Cockrell, 4.8 w Big Spring; TD 8400; API #42-227-39383 Permit issued 12/4

Surge Operating LLC
Williams Unit B 24-13 #7AH
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 370 fsl, 1174 fwl, Sec 24, Blk 33, T-3-N, Abst. 1583, T&P RR, 0.3 sw Vealmoor; TD 10000; API #42-227-39385 Permit issued 12/7

Loving County

Rosehill Operating Company LLC
Z&T 42 #F005
Sandbar (Bone Spring)-Horizontal; 200 fnl, 598 fwl, Sec 42, Blk 54, T-1, Abst. 1301, T&P RR, 15 nw Mentone; TD 11995; API #42-301-33758 Permit issued 12/4

XTO Energy Inc.
St Kitts 76 2833 #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 514 fel, 602 fsl, Sec 21, Blk 76, Abst. 1237, PSL, 16.5 ne Mentone; TD 11975; API #42-301-33763 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc.
St Kitts 76 2833 #31H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1260 fel, 615 fsl, Sec 21, Blk 76, Abst. 1237, PSL, 16.5 ne Mentone; TD 12570; API #42-301-33765 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc.
St Kitts 76 2833 #11H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1290 fel, 615 fsl, Sec 21, Blk 76, Abst. 1237, PSL, 16.5 ne Mentone; TD 12164; API #42-301-33762 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc.
St Kitts 76 2833 #22H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1320 fel, 615 fsl, Sec 21, Blk 76, Abst. 1237, PSL, 16.5 ne Mentone; TD 12375; API #42-301-33757 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc.
St Kitts 76 2833 #2H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1350 fel, 616 fsl, Sec 21, Blk 76, Abst. 1237, PSL, 16.5 ne Mentone; TD 11975; API #42-301-33760 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc.
St Kitts 76 2833 #32H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1788 fel, 620 fsl, Sec 21, Blk 76, Abst. 1237, PSL, 16.5 ne Mentone; TD 12570; API #42-301-33761 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc.
St Kitts 76 2833 #12H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1818 fwl, 620 fsl, Sec 21, Blk 76, Abst. 1237, PSL, 16.5 ne Mentone; TD 12164; API #42-301-33766 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc.
St Kitts 76 2833 #23H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1848 fel, 620 fsl, Sec 21, Blk 76, Abst. 1237, PSL, 16.5 ne Mentone; TD 12375; API #42-301-33767 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc
St Kitts 76 2833 #3H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1878 fel, 620 fsl, Sec 21, Blk 76, Abst. 1237, PSL, 16.5 ne Mentone; TD 11975; API #42-301-33768 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc.
St Kitts 76 2833 #33H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 2346 fel, 12 fsl, Sec 21, Blk 76, Abst. 1237, PSL, 16.5 ne Mentone; TD 12570; API #42-301-33769 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc
St Kitts 76 2833 #13H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 2376 fel, 12 fsl, Sec 21, Blk 76, Abst. 1237, PSL, 16.5 ne Mentone; TD 12164; API #42-301-33770 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc
St Kitts 76 2734 #31H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 360 fel, 230 fnl, Sec 27, Blk 76, Abst. 1290, PSL, 16.8 ne Mentone; TD 12570; API #42-301-33771 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc.
St Kitts 76 2734 #11H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 990 fel, 230 fnl, Sec 27, Blk 76, Abst. 1290, PSL, 16.8 ne Mentone; TD 12164; API #42-301-33774 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc.
St John 76 2734 #32H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 960 fel, 230 fnl, Sec 27, Blk 76, Abst. 1290, PSL, 16.8 ne Mentone; TD 12570; API #42-301-33775 Permit issued 12/7

XTO Energy Inc.
St John 76 2734 #23H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 960 fwl, 230 fnl, Sec 27, Blk 76, Abst. 1290, PSL, 16.8 ne Mentone; TD 12320; API #42-301-33776 Permit issued 12/7

Martin County

Endeavor Energy Resources LP
Hazlewood A 41-32 #281
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 800 fsl, 1095 fwl, Sec 41, Blk 37, T-1-N, Abst. 232, T&P RR, 10.5 nw Stanton; TD 10809; API #42-317-41157 Permit issued 12/7

Endeavor Energy Resources LP
Hazlewood A 41-32 #282
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 800 fsl, 1070 fwl, Sec 41, Blk 37, T-1-N, Abst. 232, T&P RR, 10.5 nw Stanton; TD 10809; API #42-317-41158 Permit issued 12/7

Lario Oil & Gas Company
Nimitz 5 #103LS
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 385 fnl, 1013 fel, Sec 13, Blk 38, T-3-N, Abst. 181, T&P RR, 23.23 nw Stanton; TD 9600; API #42-317-41127 Permit issued 12/7

Midland County

CrownQuest Operating LLC
FR Catclyst B 94 #2BB
Spraberry (Trend Area) R 40 EXC-Horizontal; 195 fnl, 330 fel, Sec 4, Blk 37, T-3-S, Abst. 907, T&P RR, 2.6 w Spraberry; TD 9600; API #42-329-42134 Permit issued 12/7

RSP Permian LLC
Spanish Trail 47 HZ Unit #4724H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 889 fnl, 1486 fel, Sec 47, Blk 40, T-1-S, Abst. 183, T&P RR, 5.6 w Midland; TD 12000; API #42-329-42015 Permit issued 12/6

RSP Permian LLC
Spanish Trail 47 HZ Unit #4725H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 900 fnl, 1526 fel, Sec 47, Blk 40, T-1-S, Abst. 183, T&P RR, 5.6 w Midland; TD 12000; API #42-329-42016 Permit issued 12/6

RSP Permian LLC
Spanish Trail 47 HZ Unit #4726H
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 911 fnl, 1564 fel, Sec 47, Blk 40, T-1-S, Abst. 183, T&P RR, 5.6 w Midland; TD 12000; API #42-329-42017 Permit issued 12/6

Pecos County

Forge Energy LLC
UL 22 Enterprise #1H
Wolfbone (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 2187 fnl, 402 fel, Sec 1, Blk 22, ULS, 17 se Fort Stockton; TD 7500; API #42-371-39649 Permit issued 12/7

Reeves County

Carrizo (Permian) LLC
Trinity State Unit 1110 #20H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 333 fswl, 358 fsel, Sec 11, Blk 4, Abst. 386, H&GN RR, 8.8 nw Pecos; TD 12000; API #42-389-36606 Permit issued 12/7

Centennial Resource Production LLC Blackstone #U 38H Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 361 fnl, 941 fwl, Sec 18, Blk 50, T-7-S, Abst. 5306, T&P RR, 13 se Pecos; TD 11000; API #42-389-36604 Permit issued 12/7

Centennial Resource Production LLC Blackstone #U 32H Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 362 fnl, 911 fwl, Sec 18, Blk 50, T-7-S, Abst. 5306, T&P RR, 13 se Pecos; TD 11000; API #42-389-36603 Permit issued 12/7

Cimarex Energy Co.
Dixieland State 55-6 East Unit #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 90 fnl, 1330 fel, Sec 2, Blk 55, T-4, T&P RR, 11.1 sw Mentone; TD 15500; API #42-389-36600 Permit issued 12/4

Energen Resources Corporation
Victory State Unit 54-14-19 #604H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 250 fnl, 2430 fel, Sec 14, Blk 54, T-4-S, Abst. 5077, T&P RR, 15.9 nw Pecos; TD 11500; API #42-389-36605 Permit issued 12/7

Resolute Natural Resources Co. LLC
South Mitre 2 Unit #U 06H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 483 fsl, 369 fel, Sec 22, Blk 2, Abst. 1813, H&GN RR, 16.04 se Orla; TD 11300; API #42-389-36602 Permit issued 12/4

Resolute Natural Resources Co. LLC
South Mitre 2 Unit #B106SL
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 463 fsl, 369 fel, Sec 22, Blk 2, Abst. 1813, H&GN RR, 16.04 se Orla; TD 11700; API #42-389-36599 Permit issued 12/4

Resolute Natural Resources Co. LLC
South Mitre 2 Unit #L 07H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 443 fsl, 369 fel, Sec 22, Blk 2, Abst. 1813, H&GN RR, 16.04 se Orla; TD 11300; API #42-389-36595 Permit issued 12/4

Resolute Natural Resources Co. LLC
South Goat 2 Unit # B107SL
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 805 fsel, 400 fswl, Sec 21, Blk 2, Abst. 372, H&GN RR, 16.01 se Orla; TD 11700; API #42-389-36601 Permit issued 12/4

Resolute Natural Resources Co. LLC
South Goat 2 Unit # L 04H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 845 fsel, 400 fswl, Sec 21, Blk 2, Abst. 372, H&GN RR, 16.01 se Orla; TD 11500; API #42-389-36598 Permit issued 12/4

Resolute Natural Resources Co. LLC
Ranger # L 01H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1987 fsel, 400 fswl, Sec 29, Blk 2, Abst. 375, H&GN RR, 16.25 se Orla; TD 11300; API #42-389-36608 Permit issued 12/7

Resolute Natural Resources Co. LLC
Ranger # U 02H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 660 fnwl, 400 fswl, Sec 29, Blk 2, Abst. 375, H&GN RR, 16.25 se Orla; TD 11500; API #42-389-36609 Permit issued 12/7

Resolute Natural Resources Co. LLC
Ranger # L 03H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1295 fnwl, 400 fswl, Sec 29, Blk 2, Abst. 375, H&GN RR, 16.37 se Orla; TD 11300; API #42-389-36610 Permit issued 12/7

Resolute Natural Resources Co. LLC
Ranger # U 04H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1312 fsel, 400 fswl, Sec 29, Blk 2, Abst. 375, H&GN RR, 16.23 se Orla; TD 11500; API #42-389-36611 Permit issued 12/7

Winkler County

Felix Energy Holdings II LLC
Shavano 38-28 #1H
Two Georges (Bone Spring)-Horizontal; 225 fnwl, 849 fswl, Sec 38, Blk 28, Abst. 1064, PSL, 10.18 nw Wink; TD 12000; API #42-495-34002 Permit issued 12/7

Forge Energy LLC
Stagecoach #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 330 fwl, 235 fnl, Sec 28, Blk 27, Abst. 975, PSL, 8.46 nw Wink, TD 13500; API #42-495-34005 Permit issued 12/7

Forge Energy LLC
Stagecoach #2H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 2320 fel, 235 fnl, Sec 28, Blk 27, Abst. 975, PSL, 8.46 nw Wink, TD 13500; API #42-495-34003 Permit issued 12/7

Shell Western E&P
University 20 PW Unit #3902H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1353 fnel, 10155 fsel, Sec 39, Blk 20, Abst. 34U, ULS, 9.6 sw Wink; TD 10500; API #42-495-34004 Permit issued 12/7

Shell Western E&P
University 20 PW Unit #3904H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 1353 fnel, 10135 fsel, Sec 39, Blk 20, Abst. 34U, ULS, 9.6 sw Wink; TD 10500; API #42-495-34006 Permit issued 12/7

Texas RRCD 8A

Gaines County

Sheridan Production Company LLC
P.S. Dunbar 24 #5H
Dempsey Creek (San Andres)-Horizontal; 820 fnl, 2007 fel, Sec 4, Blk A-28, Abst. 672, PSL, 25 sw Seminole; TD 10000; API #42-165-38645 Permit issued 12/7

Sheridan Production Company LLC
P.S. Dunbar 24 #6H
Dempsey Creek (San Andres)-Horizontal; 820 fnl, 1968 fel, Sec 4, Blk A-28, Abst. 672, PSL, 25 sw Seminole; TD 10000; API #42-165-38647 Permit issued 12/7

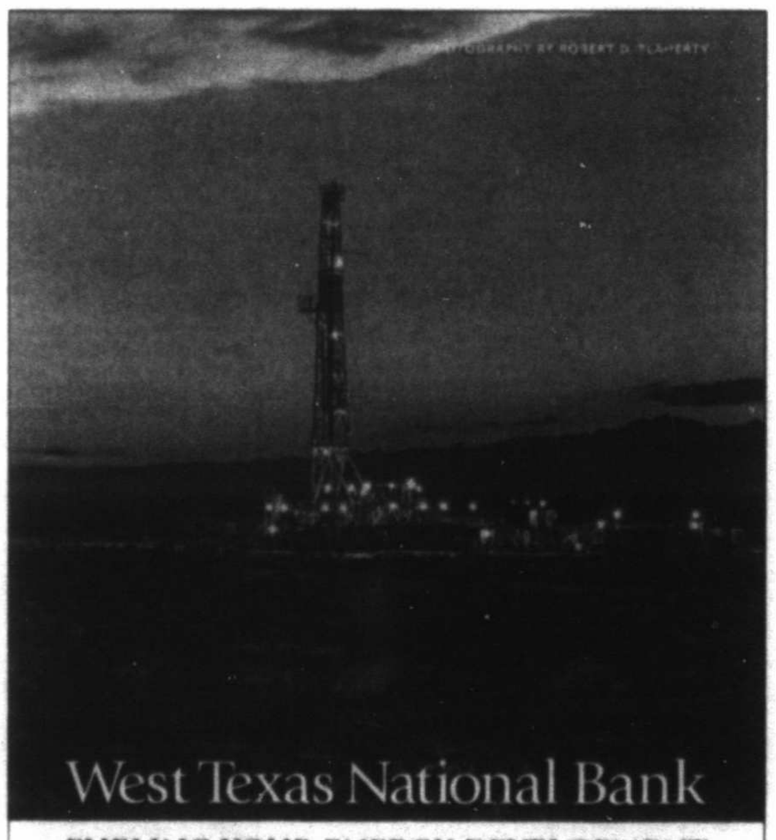
Scurry County

Kinder Morgan Production Co. LLC
SACROC Unit #255-6
Kelly-Snyder-Directional; 11367 fsl, 17048 fwl, Sec 212, Blk 97, Abst. 2621, H&TC RR, 7.24 sw Snyder; TD 7500; API #42-415-35353 Permit issued 12/6

Yoakum County

Wishbone Texas Operating Co. LLC
Cougar 726 A #1H
Platang (San Andres)-Horizontal; 180 fnl, 250

Please see PAGE 6F



DEVELOPMENT WELLS

Courtesy DrillingInfo

From 5F

tel, Sec 726, Blk D, Abst. 1847, J.H. Gibson, 12.45 nw Denver City; TD 9000; API #42-501-36918 Permit issued 12/1

New Mexico

Chaves County

Hadaway Consulting & Engineering LLC Abbey State SWD #1 SWD- Re-Entry of Yates Pet Crop, Hadley "AFJ" St #1, P&A, Old TD 7305; Sec 36 T10S R27E; 2290/N & 1200/E; 21 mi E Roswell; Rot 7305 Fusselman; API #30-005-62596

Eddy County

Mack Energy Corp. Rudolph Federal #2 Crow Flats, Sec 21 T16S R28E; 940/S & 330/W; 13 mi NE Artesia; Rot 3450 San Andres; API #30-015-44499

Mack Energy Corp. Rudolph Federal #4 Crow Flats, Sec 21 T16S R28E; 2310/S & 1650/W; 13 mi NE Artesia; Rot 3450 San Andres; API #30-015-44500

Oxy USA WTP LP Turkey Track 4 3 State #33 Turkey Track, Sec 4 T19S R29E; 1660/S & 360/W; 10 1/2 mi SW Loco Hills; Rot 18820 Bone Spring; API #30-015-44517

Oxy USA WTP LP Turkey Track 4 3 State #34 Turkey Track, Sec 4 T19S R29E; 1625/S & 360/W; 10 1/2 mi SW Loco Hills; Rot 18920 Bone Spring; API #30-015-44518

Matador Production Co. Tom Matthews 10 24S 28E RB #204 Purple Sage; Sec 10 T24S R28E; 869/S & 191/W; 1/2 mi N Malaga; Rot 13900 Wolfcamp; API #30-015-44515

Matador Production Co. Tom Matthews 10 24S 28E RB #224 Purple Sage; Sec 10 T24S R28E; 899/S & 191/W; 1/2 mi N Malaga; Rot 15100 Wolfcamp; API #30-015-44516

Black River Water Management Co. LLC Malaga SWD #4 SWD; Sec 11 T24S R28E; 1489/N & 490/W; 1 mi E Malaga; Rot 15200 Devonian; API #30-015-44514

Oxy USA Inc. Cedar Canyon 20 Fed Com #25 Pierce Crossing, Sec 29 T24S R29E; 110/N & 1390/E; 4 mi SE Malaga; Rot 13458 Bone Spring; API #30-015-44519

Oxy USA Inc. Cedar Canyon 20 Federal #26 Pierce Crossing, Sec 29 T24S R29E; 110/N & 1360/E; 4 mi SE Malaga; Rot 13553 Bone Spring; API #30-015-44520

Oxy USA Inc. Corral Fly 02-01 State #25 East Pierce Crossing, Sec 2 T25S R29E; 1240/S & 420/W; 8 mi SE Malaga; Rot 19054 Bone Spring; API #30-015-44512

Oxy USA Inc. Corral Fly 02-01 State #26 East Pierce Crossing, Sec 2 T25S R29E; 1205/S & 420/W; 8 mi SE Malaga; Rot 16441 Bone Spring; API #30-015-44513

Oxy USA Inc. Cedar Canyon 29 Federal Com #24 Pierce Crossing, Sec 29 T25S R29E; 1670/N & 420/W; 9 mi SE Malaga; Rot 13407 Bone Spring; API #30-015-44521

Lea County

Matador Production Co. Federal 30 #124 Gem; Sec 30 T19S R33E; 228/N & 698/E; 5 mi NE Halfway; Rot 14377 Bone Spring; API #30-025-44149

Chisholm Energy Operating LLC Outland 14 23 State 2BS #2 Grama Ridge; Sec 14 T21S R34E; 200/N & 1310/W; 11 mi SW Oil Center; Rot 17908 Bone Spring; API #30-025-44157

Chisholm Energy Operating LLC Outland 14 23 State 2BS #3 Grama Ridge; Sec 14 T21S R34E; 200/N & 1370/W; 11 mi SW Oil Center; Rot 17908 Bone Spring; API #30-025-44158

Oxy USA Inc. Red Tank 30 31 State Com #24-Y East Red Tank; Sec 30 T22S R32E; 200/N & 270/E; 14 mi SE Halfway; Rot 20975 Bone Spring; API #30-025-44161

COG Operating LLC Gettysburg State Com #11 West Antelope Ridge; Sec 16 T23S R34E; 200/N & 1360/E; 6 mi NW Ochoa; Rot 18805 Bone Spring; API #30-025-44159

COG Operating LLC Gettysburg State Com #12 West Antelope Ridge; Sec 16 T23S R34E; 200/N & 1390/E; 6 mi NW Ochoa; Rot 18820 Bone Spring; API #30-025-44160

EOG Resources Inc. Barlow 34 Fed #701 Sand Tanks; Sec 34 T26S R33E; 300/S & 625/W; 14 mi SW Ochoa; Rot 17105 Wolfcamp; API #30-025-44154

EOG Resources Inc. Barlow 34 Fed #703 Sanders Tank; Sec 34 T26S R33E; 300/S & 695/W; 14 mi SW Ochoa; Rot 17106 Wolfcamp; API #30-025-44155

EOG Resources Inc. Barlow 34 Fed #704 Sanders Tank; Sec 34 T26S R33E; 300/S & 1615/W; 14 mi SW Ochoa; Rot 17104 Wolfcamp; API #30-025-44156

Andy Wong/AP File Photo

A passenger airliner flies past steam and white smoke emitted from China Huaneng Group's Beijing power plant that was the last coal-fired plant to shut down on March 18, as the Chinese capital convert to clean energy like thermal power. Chinese authorities have commandeered supplies of natural gas to heat homes, disrupting supplies to industry, after efforts to clear smog-choked air by banning coal use led to energy shortages in frigid weather.

China suffers natural gas shortage as coal ban backfires

By Joe Mcdonald
Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese authorities have commandeered supplies of natural gas to heat homes, forcing chemical plants and factories to shut down, after efforts to clear smog-choked air by banning coal use backfired by causing energy shortages in frigid weather.

The disruption highlights the government's difficulties in its campaign to clean up China's smog-choked cities and reduce reliance on coal.

The latest shortages stem from Beijing's effort since 2013 to shift 3 million households in China's north to gas. That boosted demand while supplies failed to keep pace.

The overall economic impact is unclear, but gas supplies to factories and other industrial users in areas throughout China have been reduced or cut off.

"The situation is quite serious due to the suspension of gas supplies to industrial and commercial consumers in hopes of meeting the demand from civilian use," said Chen Yunying, a gas industry analyst for ICIS in Shanghai.

On Tuesday, German chemical giant BASF invoked "force majeure," or forces beyond its control, for a disruption in supplies of MDI, an ingredient in polyurethane used in packaging, from its facility in Chongqing in the southwest. BASF said it had no word when gas supplies would resume.

The gas company in the central city of Wuhan, a center for auto manufacturing and other industries, announced last week supplies to commercial customers were being shut off "to ensure people's basic needs."

China, the world's biggest energy consumer, is investing heavily in solar, wind and other renewable energy to help clean up its despoiled environment. But it is forecast to rely on coal for at least two-thirds of its energy for the foreseeable future.

On Monday, the Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank announced it approved a $250 million loan to connect some 220,000 rural Chinese households to a natural gas distribution network.

State-owned energy companies have invested billions of dollars to develop shale gas and other sources, but supplies have failed to keep pace with surging demand.

Total gas consumption from January to August rose 17.8 percent from a year earlier, outstripping a 10.8 percent production increase, according to a Cabinet planning agency, the National Development and Reform Commission.

Combined with unexpectedly low imports, that left China with a 10 billion-cubic-meter shortfall this winter, according to Chen of ICIS. He said that compares with total annual consumption of about 220-230 billion cubic meters.

News reports say the swift switch in northern China left some households without heat after coal was banned.

The business news magazine Caixin said its reporters found nearly half the 300 households in Zhouzhou, a village in Hebei province, which surrounds Beijing, had no heating for several weeks in temperatures as low as -6 C (21 F). It said farm families had been ordered to dismantle coal-fired furnaces before gas pipelines were laid to their homes.

"The government's effort to shift from coal to gas as an energy source is a good policy that can improve air quality," said Chen of ICIS. "But during implementation, some governments went too far and rushed to cut coal supplies when they hadn't found supplemental gas supplies yet."

The city government of Beijing, which in March closed its last coal-fired power plant, issued an emergency order last week to restart a coal-burning generator.

Natural gas supplies about 7 percent of China's total energy, according to the government. Beijing wants to raise that to 10 percent by 2020 and to 15 percent by 2030, according to the NDRC.

China's annual gas production is forecast to more than double to 340 billion cubic meters in 2040, with shale gas a major contributor, according to a report this week by the International Energy Agency. But it said consumption should grow even faster, reaching 600 billion cubic meters.

To boost imports, government oil companies are spending billions of dollars to build pipelines from gas fields in Russia and Central Asia.

On Wednesday, China National Petroleum Corp. announced it was speeding up laying pipe for a 3,371-kilometer-long line from Russia. Construction began in 2015 and is due to be finished in 2020.

Imports of Russian gas "will have far-reaching significance for optimizing China's energy structure, cutting emissions and improving air quality," the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Russian nuclear plant says it emits leaked nuclear isotope

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A senior executive at the Russian nuclear processing plant suspected of being behind a spike of radioactivity over Europe this fall admitted Wednesday that the isotope recorded does emerge as part of the plant's production cycle but said its levels are negligible.

Russian officials last month reported high levels of Ruthenium-106 in areas close to the Mayak nuclear plant in the Ural Mountains.

The environmental group Greenpeace alleged that Mayak could have been the source of a Ruthenium-106 leak, but the plant said it has not extracted the isotope or conducted any other operations that may lead to its release "for many years."

But Yuri Mokrov, adviser to Mayak's director general, said in a webcast press conference Wednesday that Ruthenium-106 routinely emerges during the processing of spent nuclear fuel. Mokrov insisted, however, the plant was not the source of any major leak, saying it does not produce the isotope on purpose and that the emissions that the plant makes are so insignificant "we can only see it in the chimney."

Katherine Jacobsen/AP File Photo

A sign warns people not to enter the town of Ozersk, Chelyabinsk region, Russia, in 2016, which houses the Mayak nuclear facility. Mayak is a nuclear complex that has been responsible for at least two of the country's biggest radioactive accidents. Russian authorities denied Friday that a radioactivity spike in the air over Europe resulted from a nuclear fuel plant leak in the Urals, saying their probe has found no release of radioactivity there.

A Russian panel of experts dispatched to investigate the leak has failed to identify where the isotope came from, but alleged that it could have come from a satellite that came down from its orbit and disintegrated in the atmosphere. The commission said last week that a thorough inspection of the Mayak plant and its personnel had found no safety breaches.

"There is Ruthenium in spent nuclear fuel, and Mayak during its activities routinely comes across this isotope," Mokrov said, adding that "actual emissions are hundreds times lower the permitted levels."

Mayak, in Russia's Chelyabinsk region, saw one of the world's worst nuclear accidents on Sept. 29, 1957, when a waste tank exploded. That contaminated 9,200 square miles of territory and prompted authorities to evacuate 10,000 residents from neighboring regions.

COMPLETIONS

Courtesy DrillingInfo

Texas RRCD 8

Loving County

Shell Western E&P
Bonnethead 53-2-13 LOV W Unit #1H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 571 fnl, 1424 fwl, Sec 13, Blk 53, T-2, Abst. 26, T&P RR, 11.3 ne Mentone; TD 11722 TVD, 19476 MD; Comp 11/18/2017; producing from 11951-19228, fracture stimulated; flow 1824 BO, 2430 MCF, 2808 BW, FTP 2450 psi, 45 Oil Gravity; API #42-301-33105

Shell Western E&P
Bonnethead 53-2-13 LOV W Unit #2H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 570 fnl, 1444 fwl, Sec 13, Blk 53, T-2, Abst. 26, T&P RR, 11.4 ne Mentone; TD 999 TVD, 999 MD; Comp 11/15/2017; producing from 11942-19165, fracture stimulated; flow 528 BO, 1032 MCF, 504 BW on 18/64 inch choke, FTP 2850 psi, 46 Oil Gravity; API #42-301-33108

Shell Western E&P
Oryx 53-2-1201 LOV W Unit #2H
Phantom (Wolfcamp)-Horizontal; 570 fnl, 1464 fwl, Sec 13, Blk 53, T-2, Abst. 26, T&P RR, 11.4 ne Mentone; TD 11985 TVD, 22575 MD; Comp 11/19/2017; producing from 12176-22342, fracture stimulated; flow 528 BO, 839 MCF, 1920 BW on 22/64 inch choke, FTP 2275 psi, 70 Oil Gravity; API #42-301-33103

Martin County

Energen Resources Corp.
Staggs #1
Spraberry (Trend Area); 652 fel, 660 fnl, Sec 21, Blk 34, T-3-N, Abst. 23, T&P RR, 2.2 sw Ackerly; TD 11260; Comp 11/4/2017; producing from 7335-10991, fracture stimulated; pump 59 BO, 10 MCF, 341 BW, 41.2 Oil Gravity; API #42-317-40827

Hunt Oil Company
McMurry-Crim 70 #107HB
Spraberry (Trend Area)-Horizontal; 622 fel, 352 fsl, Sec 31, Blk 35, T-1-N, Abst. 56, T&P RR, 5.28 ne Stanton; TD 8673 TVD, 15754 MD; Comp 11/8/2017; producing from 9218-16568, fracture stimulated; gas lift 670 BO, 441 MCF, 1478 BW on 64/64 inch choke, FTP 620 psi, 39.95 psi; API #42-317-40742

Ward County

Eland Energy Inc.
Sealy Smith #846
Wickett (Pennsylvanian); 7260 fnl, 660 fel, Sec 84, Blk A, Abst. 95, G&MMB&A, 4.4 nw Monahans; TD 9780; Comp 11/10/2017; producing from 8420-9590, fracture stimulated; gas lift 419 BO, 601 MCF, 643 BW on 33/64 inch choke, FTP 200 psi, 40.9 Oil Gravity; API #42-475-37314

Texas RRCD 8A

Gaines County

Apache Corporation
Adair San Andres Unit 31406
Adair; 1960 fwl, 7551 fnl, Sec 18, Blk C-31, Abst. 1255, PSL, 6.9 ne Loop; TD 5069; Comp 11/6/2017; producing from 4789-4885, fracture stimulated; pump 6 BO, 1 MCF, 1494 BW, 34 Oil Gravity; API #42-165-38539

Terry County

Trinity EOR LLC
Wellman Unit 3813
Wellman-Horizontal; 3353 fwl, 4391 fsl, Sec 12, Blk C-36, Abst. 531, PSL, 1.9 se Wellman; TD 10808 TVD, 10860 MD; Comp 11/18/2017; producing from 9877-9882, treated with acid; pump 286 BO, 407 MCF, 1476 BW, 50.5 Oil Gravity; API #42-445-32446

Yoakum County

PPC Operating Company LLC
Squints #3H
Platang (San Andres)-Horizontal; 240 fnl, 1175 fel, Sec 534, Blk D, Abst. 651, J.H. Gibson, 13 w Plains; TD 5535 TVD, 10239 MD; Comp 11/7/2017; producing from 5123-9801, fracture stimulated; pump 434 BO, 384 MCF, 1538 BW, 42 Oil Gravity; API #42-501-36795

New Mexico

Eddy County

COG Operating LLC
Burch Keely Unit #962
Burch Keely; Sec 24 T17S R29E; 296/N & 153/E. BHL 377/N & 25/E; EL 3618 GL, TD 10290 MD, 4872 TVD, PBTD 10211 MD, 4872 TVD; Spud 6-10-17, Comp 8-29-17; production is through treated perfs: 5121-10191. Treat: Acdz w/121,008 gals 15% acid, Frac w/379,218 gals trt wtr, 5,735,608 gals slick water. IP: 9-2-17 Pump 24 hrs 461 BO, 1224 BW, 373 MCF, GOR 809, Gty 39, Csg: 13 3/8 @ 327 w/1000 sx, 9 5/8 @ 1092 w/500 sx, 7 @ 4309, 5 ½ @ 10280 w/2200 sx, 2 7/8 @ 5157; API #30-015-44101

Matador Production Co.
Anne Com 15 24S 28E RB #201
Purple Sage; Sec 15 T24S R28E; 963/N & 859/W. BHL: 352/N & 240/E; EL 3015 GR, TD 14225 MD, 9811 TVD, PBTD 14217; Spud 5-31-17, Comp 9-22-17; production is through treated perfs: 9906-14064. Treat: 12,415,780# sd. IP: 10-6-17 Flow 24 hrs 1338 BO, 3237 BW, 2349 MCF, 32/64" Ch, CP 2150, GOR 1756, Gty 43.9. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 600 w/561 sx, 9 5/8 @ 2707 w/891 sx, 7 5/8 @ 2606 w/876 sx, 7 @ 9885, 5 ½ @ 8662 w/521 sx, 4 ½ @ 14217; API #30-015-44210

Lea County

Mewbourne Oil Co.
Cabra Nino 11 B3MD State Com #1
Ojo Chiso; Sec 11 T22S R34E; 260/S & 630/W. BHL: 336/N & 485/W; EL 3532 GL, TD 15965, PBTD 15939; Spud 7-9-17, Comp 9-11-17; production is through treated perfs: 11466-15939. Treat: Frac w/8,868,114 gals SW, carrying 6,267,634# 100 mesh sand, 2,931,360# 30/50 sd. IP: 9-13-17 Flow 24 hrs 346 BO, 612 BW, 300 MCF, 12/64" Ch, CP 2600, GOR 867, Gty 40.252. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1730 w/1350 sx, 9 5/8 @ 5696 w/1400 sx, 7 @ 11643 w/740 sx, 4 ½ @ 10810-15925 w/275 sx; API #30-025-42598

Endurance Resources LLC
Starcaster 18 Federal Com #1
North Bell Lake; Sec 19 T23S R34E; 330/N & 1270/W. BHL: 151/S & 668/W; EL 3507 GL, TD 15370 MD< 10586 TVD, PBTD 15370 MD, 10586 TVD; Spud 1-21-17, Comp 3-16-17; production is through treated perfs: 10800-15191. Treat: Acdz w/74928 gals acid, Frac w/9486708 gals wtr, 5,500,000# sand. IP: 4-1-17 Flow 24 hrs 695 BO, 3222 BW, 734 MCF, 27/64" Ch, TP 1725. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1220 w/1035 sx, 9 5/8 @ 4974 w/1330 sx, 5 ½ @ 15370 w/2160 sx; API #30-025-43388

Endurance Resources LLC
Starcaster 18 Federal Com #2
North Bell Lake; Sec 18 T23S R34E; 330/N & 1370/W. BHL: 151/S & 668/W; EL 3506 GL, TD 15228 MD, 10434 TVD, PBTD 15228 MD, 10434 TVD; Spud 10-21-16, Comp 1-6-17; production is through treated perfs: 10700-15079. Treat: Acdz w/90216 gals 15% acid, Frac w/890560 gals fluid,5475460# sd. IP: 1-15-17 Flow 24 hrs 852 BO, 2709 BW, 577 MCF, 39/54" Ch, TP 1600. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1231 w/1005 sx, 9 5/8 @ 4980 w/1330 sx, 5 ½ @ 15228 w/1910 sx, 2 7/8 @ 10181; API #30-025-43213

COG Operating LLC
Windward Federal #5
Wildcat; Sec 30 T24S R32E; 210/N & 530/W. BHL: 63/S & 335/W; EL 3539 GL, TD 19260 MD, 9140 TVD, PBTD 19125 MD, 9152 TVD; Spud 11-15-16, Comp 8-20-17; production is through treated perfs: 9427-19105, 19155-19165. Treat: 94,665 gals 7 1/2% acid, 97,313 gals 15% acid, 19,206,470# sand, 23,813,408 gals fluid. IP: 8-22-17 Flow 24 hrs 108 BO, 2522 BW, 743 MCF, TP 500. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 806 w/1000 sx, 9 5/8 @ 4555 w/1475 sx, 5 ½ @ 19225 w/3650 sx, 2 7/8 @ 8773; API #30-025-43174

COG Operating LLC
Viking Helmet State Com #24
Wildcat; Sec 20 T24S R35E; 210/S & 2230/E. BHL: Sec 32 2425/N & 2328/E; EL 3319 GR, TD 20181, PBTD 20075; Spud 5-27-17, Comp 9-10-17; production is through treated perfs: 12795-20050. Treat: Acdz w/146,118 gals 7 ½%, Frac w/18,768,756# sd & 18,892,596 gals fluid. IP: 9-12-17 Flow 24 hrs 213 BO, 2534 BW, 203 MCF, 18/64" ch, TP 2900 CP 2700. Csg: 10 ¾ @ 900 w/500 sx, 7 5/8 @ 11868 w/1475 sx, 5 ½ 0-11319 w/1510 sx, 5 @ 11319-20161, 2 7/8 @ 11294; API #30-025-43779

EOG Resources Inc.
Condor 32 State #703
Wildcat; Sec 32 T25S R34E; 160/N & 877/E. BHL: 129/S & 344/E; EL 3321 GR, TD 17,530 MD, 12,663 TVD, PBTD 17,318 MD, 12,672 TVD; Spud 7-25-17, Comp 9-9-17; production is through treated perfs: 12,884-17,318. Treat: Frac w/10,653,653# proppant, 191,624 bbls load fluid. IP: 9-11-17 Flow 24 hrs 3019 BO, 9954 BW, 4578 MCF, 42 Ch, CP 3369, GOR 1516, Gty 42. Csg: 10 ¾ @ 880 w/755 sx, 7 5/8 @ 10550 w/3935 sx, 5 ½ @ 17520 w/710 sx; API #30-025-42582

CML Exploration LLC
Raider 9 State #2
Maljamar; Sec 9 T17S R33E; 990/S & 800/W; EL 4201 GR, TD 11,100, PBTD 11,063; Spud 7-16-17, Comp 9-1-17; production is through treated perfs: 10910-11004. Treat: 6000 gals 15% HCL acid. IP: 9-3-17 Pump 24 hrs 56 BO, 42 BW, 101 MCF, GOR 1804, Gty 41. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1635 w/1150 sx, 8 5/8 @ 4630 w/1625 sx, 5 ½ @ 11100 w/900 sx, 2 7/8 @ 10957; API #30-025-43874

EOG Resources Inc.
Nectarine 13 State Com #501
North Berry; Sec 13 T21S R33E; 230/N & 330/W. BHL: Sec 24 2302/N & 319/W; EL 3778 GR, TD 18,265 MD, 10,886 TVD, PBTD 18,154 MD, 10,884 TVD; Spud 5-12-17, Comp 8-23-17; production is through treated perfs: 11178-18154. Treat: Frac w/17,945,850# proppant, 327,970 bbls load fluid. IP: 8-27-17 Flow 24 hrs 564 BO, 7236 BW, 481 MCF, 46 Ch, CP 974, GOR 853, Gty 45. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1858 w/1605 sx, 9 5/8 @ 5438 w/1964 sx, 5 ½ @ 18252 w/3695 sx; API #30-025-43793

EOG Resources Inc.
Almost Eddy 31 Federal #1
Jennings; Sec 31 T25S R32E; 220/S & 380/E. BHL: Sec 30 2401/S & 366/E; EL 3281 GL, TD 16126 MD, 8732 TVD, PBTD 16007 MD, 8730 TVD; Spud 9-14-15, Comp 9-21-17; production is through perfs: 8889-16007. IP: 9-29-17 Flow 24 hrs 1287 BO, 3265 BW, 4959 MCF, 48 Ch, CP 1004, GOR 3854, Gty 45. Csg: 13 3/8 @ 1352 w/820 sx, 9 5/8 @ 4339 w/1100 sx, 5 ½ @ 16106 w/2495; API

Please see PAGE 8F

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www.utpb.edu

Congratulations UT Permian Basin Graduates

Baccalaureate Degrees
College of Arts and Sciences
Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Art

Tiffany Marie Harris — Andrews TX
Rachel Nicole Forga — Midland TX
Alberto Tena — Odessa TX

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Communication

Curtis H. Fuller — Austin TX
Brittany Ruth Garcia — Stafford TX
Gemma Alexandra Lopez — Midland TX
Karina Rodriguez — Midland TX

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Criminology

Albert Salilo Fano — Pago Pago AS
Alberto Flores-Bautista — Odessa TX
Robert Gonzalez — Midland TX
Shelby Danae Hernandez — Odessa TX
Hannah Fay Navarro — El Paso TX
Jesus Martinez Ramirez, III — Odessa TX
Denna Nicole Valles — Midland TX

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in English

Nayla Carrasco — Presidio TX
Margaret Irene Chavez — Midland TX
Alithia Ann Dean — Midland TX
Heather Ann Gomez — Odessa TX
Kandice Christian Hargreaves — Odessa TX
Devin Elizabeth Jaramillo — Midland TX
Sabrina Renee Maddox — Big Spring TX
Tyler Janeé Venegas — Odessa TX

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in History

Justen Tyler Cotton — Odessa TX
Firras-Mufleh Shihab Diars — Odessa TX
Benjamin Dale Herndon — Odessa TX
Rebekah Lorraine Lamb — Odessa TX
Brittany Marie Linn — Odessa TX
Jose P. Martinez — Odessa Tx
Blake Matthew Williams — Odessa TX

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Humanities

Stacey Renee Fine — Fort Worth TX

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Political Science

Daniel Ruiz — Odessa TX
Valeria Garcia Tavarez — Monahans TX

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Psychology

Kristen Pilar Aceves — San Antonio TX
Roselyn Abimbola Adekoya — Abilene TX
Brooklyn N. Arias — Odessa TX
Carol Ann Baggett — Weatherford TX
Tara Abigail Bowen — Roscoe TX
Mallory Lou Britton — Odessa TX
Meredith Womack Burke — Tyler TX
Kelsey Leigh Byrd — Odessa TX
Ian David Charman — Houston TX
Caden Cole Coots — Midland TX
Marshall Troy Cox — Stanton TX
Mellanee D. Crecar-Alford — Odessa TX
Andrew Denham — North Richland Hills TX
Courtney Renae Edmiston — Weatherford TX
Adriana Patricia Franco — Odessa TX
Kami Lynne Gilbert — Arlington TX
Vanessa Jo Goodwin — Odessa TX
Joanna Rae Herrera — Coyanosa TX
Sabrina Hinojos — Georgetown TX
Olivia Grace Jones — Grand Prairie TX
Candelario Leal — Houston TX
Jackson Scott Longino — Odessa TX
Angela Lowery — Eunice NM
Kimberlee Nicole Lujan — Fort Stockton TX
Monica Maes — Jal NM
Erin J. Martin — San Antonio TX
Tawni L. Maughan — Weatherford TX
Heather Michelle Mesa — Lenorah TX
Anna Leigh Miller — Boerne TX
Joseph L. Molinar — Austin TX
Reba Michelle Purvis — Amarillo TX
Chellsea Arbtin Rea — San Antonio TX
Susan Ashley Reeder — Monroe WA
Misty Devonne Robinson — Odessa TX
Monica Charles Ryherd — Converse TX
Joevany Denet Sanchez — Odessa TX
Mandy Marie Walpole — San Antonio TX
Brandy Nicole Washington — Red Oak TX
Kisha Jahnee Williams — New Braunfels TX
LaTonya D. Woodruff — Round Rock TX

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Sociology

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Sharay Dian Cottrell — Seminole TX
Monica Solis Lucas — New Braunfels TX
Gloria Morgan — Grand Prairie TX
Carlos Rodriguez — Austin TX
Angela Marie Sanchez — San Antonio TX
Lori Frances Schmidtke — Mineral Wells TX

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Spanish

Maria de la Luz Calleros — Midland TX
Jose P. Martinez — Odessa TX
Elisa Minjarez — Seagraves TX

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Iamhilex Fernandez — Presidio TX

Bachelor of Music with a Major in Music

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Bachelor of Science with a Major in Athletic Training

Adam Michael Campbell — Odessa TX
Raul Pony Palomino — Odessa TX
Ailem Marie Villarreal — Odessa TX

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Biology

Gerardo Salazar Aguilar — Odessa TX
Michael Craig Blanco — Odessa TX
Ana Lorena Cantu — Odessa TX
Isadora G. Carrasco — Odessa TX
Aryanna Marie Galindo — Odessa TX
Omar Garcia — Odessa TX
Conner Chad Hall — Camby TX
Mario Alberto Mendoza — Odessa TX
Jessica Pimentel — Odessa TX
Peyton Emily Slater — Odessa TX

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Chemistry

Ezequiel Romero Paz — Odessa TX
Thomas James Weathers — Midland TX

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Computer Science

Colton Keith Armstrong — Crandall TX
Jeremy Ray Dean — Corpus Christi TX
Sawyer Raelyn Hollis — Midland TX
Zachary Colton Lyssy — Midland TX
Melissa Lynn Marruffo — Odessa TX
Nathan Joshua Nix — Odessa TX
Caden Tyler Prichard — Odessa TX
Christopher David Ray — Rockport TX
Yewdiel Venzor — Odessa TX

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Criminal Justice

Gabriela Lizette G. Hernandez — Laredo TX

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Geology

Jose Samuel Aranda — Midland TX
Alessio Aranda Brito — Midland TX
Alexander Dalton Lyssy — Midland TX
Jaycee Cameron Meloy — Bacliff TX
Gavin Thomas Russell — Odessa TX

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Information Systems

Joshua Seth Barden — Midland TX
Robert Joe Gilbert-Uhlman — Springtown TX

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Kinesiology

Austin Levis Awbrey — Kermit TX
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Andrew DeJuan Enriquez — Odessa TX
Tanya Garindo — Odessa TX
Christopher Ibarra — Odessa TX
Kelsey Lee James — Odessa TX
Patricia Leigh Lerma — Burleson TX
Toddrick Lamar Lopez — Odessa TX
Randi Gene Arnelle May — Weatherford TX
Jacob James Muñoz — Midland TX
Michael Caniamo Rosero — Odessa TX
Marina Renae Salazar — Odessa TX
Sarah Jessica Taplin — Midland TX
Noe Ricardo Valencia-Garcia, Jr — Odessa TX

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Mathematics

Adelle Lyanne Maldonado — Odessa TX
Clarissa Tahnise McMillar — Midland TX

Bachelor of Social Work

Maritza Baeza — Andrews TX

College of Nursing
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Stacie Renee Alvarez — Odessa TX
Jessica Michelle Alvarez-Ortiz — Odessa TX
Orlando Miguel Anguiano — Odessa TX
Kimberly Marie Carrasco — Odessa TX
Maritza Ariana Cordova — Odessa TX
Morgan Taylor DeLeon Tagle — Midland TX
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John Gilbert Garcia — San Antonio TX
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Jessica Jonae Nattividad — Odessa TX
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Chasidy Briann Rayos — Odessa TX
Arlen Del Carmen Reyes — Brownsville TX
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Denisse Guadalupe Rosas — Odessa TX
Soundariya P. Satyavada — Midland TX
Leah Ashley Schwope — Midland TX
Kaela Amber Smith — Big Spring TX
Alexis Danne Trevino — Odessa TX

College of Business
Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences

Darry Reece Cox — Alvin TX
Joseph Michael Ganceres — Beeville TX
Jose Luis Zuniga — Midland TX

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Economics

Chelsi Donette Leasure — Odessa TX
Joseph I. Seibert — Midland TX

Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Accountancy

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Gerardo Diaz — Odessa TX
Alphonse Ndalle Essoh — Odessa TX
Stephen Anthony Hernandez — Odessa TX
Paige Danielle Lewis — Odessa TX
Mathew Shae Mitchell — Midland TX
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Victoria Cordova Sabando — Pecos TX
Laura Ellen Zuniga — Odessa TX

Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Finance

Nikis Alec Castelazo — Odessa TX
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Steven Garett Lively — Odessa TX
Andrew James Lucas — Odessa TX
Angelica Velazquez — Canotillo TX
Reginald Rogers Wright — Universal City TX

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Wanda Lizette Byrom — San Antonio TX
Ilena Marie Carrasco — Odessa TX
Druston P. Chidester — Canadian TX
Aaron Blaine Collins — Odessa TX
Ashley Nicole Dean — Midland TX
Madylin Nicole DeLeon — Lubbock TX
Fabian Ignacio Depablos — Kissimmee FL
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Trey Enriquez — Odessa TX
Joseph James Flotte — Hobbs NM
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Bradley Kirk LaRue — Houston TX
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Sandra Lizette Segura — Odessa TX
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Carly Darleene Sparks — Kilgore TX
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Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Marketing

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Obed Borrero-Flores — Midland TX
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Dean M. Garza, Jr. — Odessa TX
Amanda Marie Matta — Odessa TX
Ashley Anne Ortega — Odessa TX
Cindy Thuannett Pando — Midland TX
Natalia A. Ponce — Odessa TX

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Industrial Technology

Andrew James Allen — Midland TX
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Ryley Don Muñoz — Midland TX
Christopher Lance Rivera — Big Spring TX
Jessie Bryan Venegas — Monahans TX
Charles Brooks Yandell — Katy TX

College of Engineering
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Mechanical Engineering

Kelly Lupita Herrera — Midland TX
Ahmed Mohamed — Odessa TX

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Petroleum Engineering

Thaddeus Mohari Ayoga — Nyamira Kenya
Shrey Bhakta — Odessa TX
Freddy Sebastian Contreras — Odessa TX
Zachary Luke Gallegos — Midland TX
Daniel J. Galvan — Midland TX
Justin Alan Garrett — Odessa TX
James Matthew Gonzales — Odessa TX
Marcos Q. Iglesias — Seminole TX
Albert Anthony Karmels, IV — Midland TX
Richard John Kassanga — Odessa TX
Jay Zachary Long — Midland TX
Kodie Austyn Ochoa — Midland TX
Kyle Russell Patterson — Austin TX
Matthew Daniel Pena — Midland TX
Aaron Matthew Russell — Pecos TX
James Kyle Stevenson — Big Spring TX
Shilpa Verma — Arlington TX

College of Education
Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Child and Family Studies

Mohsina Ahmed — Austin TX
Alayna Kathleen Inez Campbell — Killeen TX
Rafaela Kristina Maria Chavez — Converse TX
Amanda Shanise Giles — San Marcos TX
Brook Masaun Mustafa — Odessa TX
Sheila Ann Owen — Santa Anna TX
Charlotte Ann Shuler — Burkburnett TX
Reba Alexandra Subia — Fort Stockton TX

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Yubia Zubia Galindo — Odessa TX
Erandeny C. Gomez — Odessa TX
Ashley Nicole Hearn — Midland TX
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April G. Johnson — Odessa TX
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Kelly Lee O'Donnell-Delval — Midland TX
Irma Lorena Rangel — Midland TX
Dulce Selene Salinas — Midland TX
Laura Michele Schulz — Midland TX
Rebeca Tarango — Andrews TX

Graduate Degrees
College of Arts and Sciences
Master of Arts with a Major in English

Brance Stuart Davis — Odessa TX
Kristin Lynnette King — Big Spring TX

Master of Arts with a Major in History

Sarah Allyn January — Midland TX

Master of Arts with a Major in Mathematics

Melissa Noel Cooper — Odessa TX
Rodolfo Eliseo Ramirez Morales — Odessa TX

Master of Arts with a Major in Psychology

Sarah Nicole Lemmons — Dallas TX

Master of Science with a Major in Computer Science

Melody Sheree Snitker — Midland TX
Harsha Wattegedara — Odessa TX

Master of Science with a Major in Geology

Fatimah Motunrayo Adelekan — Ede Osun State
Mike Julian Carmona — Midland TX
Ettebong Eshiet Emmanuel — Odessa TX
Richard Alan Hodges — Allen TX
Yvonne C. Iwo-Brown — Midland TX
Joanna Michelle Walker — Fort Worth TX

College of Business
Master of Business Administration

Roxanna Herrera Aguilar — Odessa TX
Thaddeus Mohari Ayoga — Nyamira Kenya
Tevin Don Bradford — Midland TX
Roberto T. Florez, III — Odessa TX
Amy Jean Fultz — Midland TX
Viviana Gamboa — Odessa TX
Araceli Baeza Gomez — Odessa TX
David Gonzalez, Jr. — Odessa TX
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Katelyn Cari Jones — Wink TX
Elizabeth Leyva-Pacheco — Oaxaca Mexico
Melanie A. Lively — Odessa TX
Marcy Jeanette Madrid — Midland TX
DeAnn Navarrete Martinez — Big Spring TX
Christina Maria Perez — Gonzales CA
Lynzi Richale Pinter — Odessa TX
Megan Jill Russell — Midland TX
John C. Sharp — Houston TX
Antonio Suarez — Midland TX
Liliana Vergara — Midland TX
Madeline Susanne Wilson — Midland TX
Jamie Lynne Wolph — Olympia WA

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Jazmin Cervantes — El Paso TX
Adrian Aubrey Flores — Midland TX
Clarissa Daniela Kuzmich — Midland TX

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Master of Arts with a Major in Bilingual Education

Robyn Tess Hernandez — Odessa TX
Flor Jordan — Crockett TX
Anne Marie Leal — Crosby TX
Araceli Lira-Oliver — Keller TX
Myra Soliz — Kermit TX
Brittney Tchatat-Njike — Little Rock AR

Master of Arts with a Major in Counseling

Ana Maria Madrid — Midland TX

Master of Arts with a Major in Educational Leadership

Kimberly Marie Christensen — Scottsdale AZ
Rebecca Janie Cressman — Cheboygan MI
Dana Elizabeth Ellis — Midland TX
Jerry Michael Faulkner — Odessa TX
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Michelle Mitidieri — Miami FL
Sandra Ann Saenz — Lubbock TX
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Master of Arts with a Major in Professional Education

Candace Maria Barton Furr — Missouri City TX
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Master of Arts with a Major in Reading

LaDonna Jo Chism — Odessa TX
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Blythe Twedell Amerson — Lamar SC
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South Pitchfork Ranch; Sec 16 T25S R34E; 300/S & 824/W. BHL: 231/N & 1653/W; EL 3354 GR, TD 17,427 MD, 12,534 TVD, PBTD 17,307 MD, 12,537 TVD; Spud 8-3-17, Comp 10-19-17; production is through treated perfs: 12,798-17,307. Treat: Frac w/11,239,100# proppant, 188,857 bbls load fluid. IP: 10-28-17 Flow 24 hrs 1926 BO, 4781 BW, 2378 MCF< 40 Ch, CP 1520, GOR 1235. Csg: 10 ¾ @ 965 w/770 sx, 7 5/8 @ 11936 w/4297 sx, 5 ½ @ 17,406 w/580 sx; API #30-025-43905

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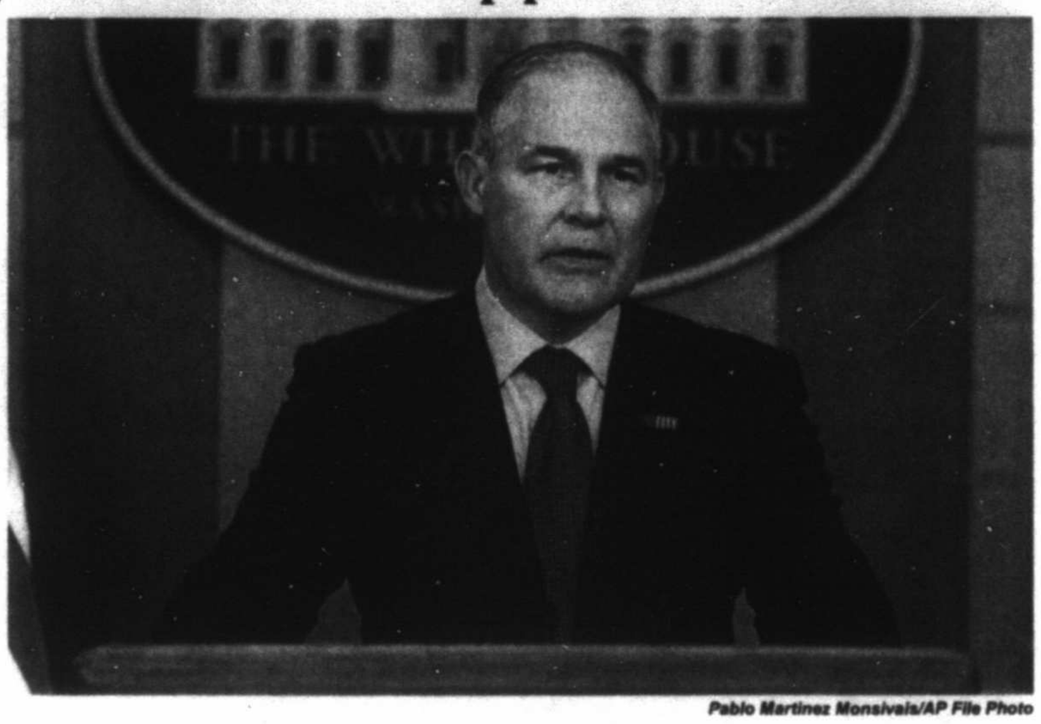
EPA chief jets to Morocco to help promote fossil fuel use

By Michael Biesecker
Associated Press



Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP File Photo

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt speaks in the Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in on June 7 in Washington. Pruitt flew to Morocco the week of Dec. 11 to help encourage the North African kingdom to import liquefied natural gas from the United States. Pruitt was accompanied by at least four staff members on the trip, which the agency said also included bilateral meetings with government officials about updating an environmental work plan included in the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

WASHINGTON — The head of the Environmental Protection Agency flew to Morocco this week to help encourage the North African kingdom to import liquefied natural gas from the United States, prompting Democrats and advocacy groups to question whether the trip was in keeping with the agency's mission of ensuring clean air and water.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt was accompanied by at least four staff members on the trip, which the agency said also included bilateral meetings with government officials about updating an environmental work plan included in the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

The trip cost nearly $40,000, an EPA employee with direct knowledge of Pruitt's travel expenses told The Associated Press. The employee spoke on condition of anonymity, citing concerns of retaliation. That does not include salary and overtime costs for the armed, around-the-clock security detail that accompanies Pruitt wherever he goes.

"We are committed to working closely with countries like Morocco to enhance environmental stewardship around the world," said Pruitt, a Republican.

Pruitt's frequent government-funded travel and other spending are already under review by EPA's inspector general. Pruitt told a congressional oversight committee earlier this month that all of his expenses are all justified, including the nearly $25,000 in public funds spent on a custom-made soundproof booth the administrator uses for making private phone calls from his office.

Rep. Betty McCollum, the ranking Democrat on the House appropriations subcommittee that oversees EPA funding, said she is looking forward to seeing the results of the inspector general's investigation into Pruitt's spending.

"I question whether promoting fossil-fuel sales abroad aligns with the EPA's core mission of protecting human health and the environment," said McCullum, who is from Minnesota.

Pruitt's airfare, accommodations and other costs for the Morocco trip accounted for more than $17,500, nearly half of the total cost, according to AP's source. By comparison, expenses for Pruitt's chief policy adviser, Samantha Dravis, came in at a little over $4,000 for the four-day excursion.

EPA initially declined to confirm whether Pruitt was going to Morocco when AP inquired about the trip Monday, citing security concerns about discussing his upcoming travel. EPA regularly issues media advisories about Pruitt's trips only after they are completed and frequently bars reporters from attending events where he speaks to special interest groups.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox declined to answer questions Wednesday about why Pruitt's expenses outpaced other government employees on the Morocco trip, including whether the administrator flew in first class or other premium seats.

Federal travel guidelines dictate that government employees travel in economy class unless such tickets are not "reasonably available" or if there are exceptional security circumstances. However, past federal audits have found that those rules have been routinely violated by high-ranking government officials under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

Travel spending by members of President Donald Trump's Cabinet has been under scrutiny following the resignation of Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price in September following media reports he spent at least $400,000 in taxpayer funds on private jets for himself and his staff.

AP reported last week that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke spent more than $53,000 on three helicopter trips over the summer, including one that allowed him to return to Washington in time for a horseback ride with Vice President Mike Pence.

Records show Pruitt has taken at least four flights on non-commercial aircraft, costing more than $58,000. EPA has said all of those flights were necessary and pre-approved by ethics layers.

Pruitt's detailed travel records from his first three months in Washington, the only period released so far, show he also spent about $15,000 on 10 trips that included weekend stopovers in his home state of Oklahoma — a practice that is a focus of the inspector general's review.

Prior to his appointment to lead EPA, Pruitt was known for championing the interests of the oil and gas industry as Oklahoma's attorney general. He rejects the consensus of climate scientists that mankind's continued burning of fossil fuels is the primary driver of climate change. Since coming to Washington, he has repeatedly moved to block or delay Obama-era efforts to curb carbon emissions.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune on Wednesday said the trip was another reason Pruitt should resign.

"The EPA Administrator's job is to protect the health of the public and the environment, but Scott Pruitt instead acts like he is a globe-trotting salesman for the fossil fuel industry who can make taxpayers foot the bill," Brune said.